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OCT. 30, 1998 VOLUME 29, NO. 3 FREE

From left, Sarah Seddon, 2, Nathan Ottaviano, 4, Jaye Sloat, 2, Brittany MacLean, 3, and Brandon Iwanczuk, 2, children from the YMCA Childcare Centre in Fonthill, prepare for Halloween with a trip to the Pumpkin Farm in Thorold.

Photo by Lee Whitehead

Knights strike gold

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The Knights have struck gold.

The Niagara Knights touch-football team captured their first gold medal in three years at the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) tournament held at Mohawk College in Hamilton on Oct. 16 and 17.

The Knights defeated the Lambton Lions 40-6 in the tournament final. Quarterback Shane McKenzie, a second-year student in the Business Administration — Marketing program, was selected as the championship game's Most Valuable Player (MVP).

"It's great. This is really sweet," said co-coach Randy Conlon. "It's good for the school that we have another banner to go up in our gym."

"I'm very proud of the guys," said Ray Sarkis, the assistant director of varsity athletics. "I'm sure the whole college, administration, faculty and students are very proud of them."

Hassan Awil, 20, a first-year student in the Human Relations program, said he felt "relief" when the championship game ended.

"I had a sense of accomplishment," he said. "It was a great tournament."

"Without sounding cocky or arrogant, it was a complete, total domination," said Conlon. "We were head and shoulders above any team there. I can say that with confidence. If you read the scores, they'll certainly back that up. We were that much better."

The Knights kicked off the tournament on the Friday with a 61-0 win against Kingston's St. Lawrence College. McKenzie was chosen as the game's MVP.

In the second game, the Knights defeated Lambton 14-0, but suffered a setback. Midway through the game, Awil left with a bruised shoulder.

Continued on Page 19

Official opening grand affair

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

Hundreds of hours of detailed planning, sleepless nights and spending millions of dollars have ended as Niagara College's new Glendale campus officially opened Oct. 22.

Opened to students Sept. 9, the official community opening for the $37-million state-of-the-art facility was presided over by Ontario Premier Mike Harris.

Almost 600 people, including donors, educators and representatives from regional businesses, attended the ceremony.

It began with Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Crier Allan Freeman bringing the gathering to order, followed by a welcoming song by the Six Nations Women's singers and a reading from Christopher Newton, the artistic director for Shaw Festival.

The ceremony, held in the gymnasium at the campus, was filled with speeches of enthusiasm and positive attitudes. Speeches were given by Tom Gauld, chair of Niagara College board of governors; Dan Patterson, college president; Don Woodruff, student representative on the board of governors; and Premier Harris.

Patterson says he wants to be able to look back in 30 years and be "proud" of what "we have given our children and grandchildren."

Harris congratulated Patterson and the college for a "job well done" and spoke highly of the opportunities the college has to offer.

Afterwards, Harris unveiled the college plaque to the audience.

Members of the Walker and Glynn families, principal donors to the college's capital campaign, held the ribbon across the front of the stage while Harris, Patterson, Gauld and Woodruff cut the ribbon with gold sheers.

A reception was catered by Niagara College's J. Mark Hand, chef de cuisine, assisted by the college's culinary students.

Exposure encourages further education

By JENN MOIR
Staff Writer

Niagara College is participating in Take Your Kids to Work Day on Wednesday, Nov. 4.

The day is "for all staff at Niagara College" who have children in Grade 9, says Colleen St. Amand, Human Resources Department clerk, adding the day helps "expose teenagers to the workplace."

Eighteen children are registered so far. Twelve are registered for the Welland campus and six at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

She says the exposure encourages the youngsters to further their education and to stay in school longer.

St. Amand says the youngsters may be "swapped" in the afternoon so they "can have exposure to a variety of departments in the college."

She says the college wants "to involve the students in the day-to-day routines and assign hands-on tasks so that they feel like part of the day."

A pizza lunch is scheduled for the students at each campus.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson will greet the children at Welland campus and Martha Casson, vice-president enterprise and service development, will greet the students at Glendale campus.

INDEX: SAC Pg.5 Politics Pg.6 Editorial Pg.8 Speaking Out Pg.9 Profiles Pg.10 Week of the Child Pg. 14 Entertainment Pg. 16 Sports Pg. 18

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News Across Niagara

Graduates win at Enterprise Awards

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

Niagara College entrepreneurs have earned award-winning recognition in the annual Enterprise '98 ceremonies held Oct. 14.

For the past five years, Niagara Region-based entrepreneurs' achievements have been nominated and applauded by fellow business people.

This year five of the eight categories included Niagara College graduates. These categories included youth, technological innovation, international trade, new venture and the CIBC Enterprise award. The remaining categories were special achievement, family and the Casino Niagara Community Contribution award.

Andrew Shaw, Andrew B. Shaw Photography, who completed the Self Employment Benefit Program at the college's Innovation Centre, was nominated in the youth and the new venture categories.

The youth category is for those 29 years old or younger who have demonstrated success and promise in entrepreneurial activity.

The new venture award recognizes individuals with outstanding performance in successful companies up to two years old and that have excellent prospects for continued growth.

Entrepreneurs earn recognition

The 24-year-old entrepreneur is recognized as having one of the top performing wedding photography businesses in the Niagara Region.

Another Niagara College graduate in the youth category was Marco Dugas who studied electronics engineering. He, with two others, started Netstart Solutions Inc., a company in complete technology solutions.

Dugas and his partners won the category.

The technological innovation award is given to the individual responsible for exceptional performance of a company based in the sciences or technologies and who has used new technologies to benefit the enterprise.

Dr. Tim Nohara was the recipient in this category. He is the founder of Sicom Systems Ltd., involved in radar, communication and digital signal processing. His business was involved in the development of "smart antenna" wireless communication systems for defence and commercial applications.

Dr. Nohara's clients include the federal government and he is involved in the pilot export program with the college.

An award for successful entrance into the international marketplace is the international trade award won by Craig Bolton, of Peninsula Plastics Ltd. Bolton is also a graduate of Niagara College. The business was founded by Fred Bolton in 1976, and Craig became president in 1989.

Graduates in five of eight categories

His business has successful factors in global marketing, employee involvement and technological innovation. Craig's firm also has a broad export range including Europe, South Africa, Australia and North America.

He was nominated also for the CIBC Enterprise award. This recognizes the individual who best represents the characteristics of the successful entrepreneur and demonstrates creativity, initiative, dynamic growth and sound management.

The award luncheon was sponsored in part by many regional businesses. Niagara College, Tri-Media and KPMG were gold sponsors of the event. CIBC and Casino Niagara were platinum sponsors. William Thomas, humorist and author, was the master of ceremony. The chair of the event was Niagara College's own Barbara Okanik.

Attending from Niagara College were President Dan Patterson and Neil Chartrand, director of Business and Entrepreneurship, in addition to several faculty members. Both said they were "impressed" with the involvement of Niagara College graduates.

Walkway of fame into Next Century

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

Like Hollywood's Walk of Fame, this is your chance for your name to be immortalized in the Niagara: the Next Century Walkway.

As the slogan for the brick campaign says, "The world may forget your face. They won't forget your brick."

Anybody that donates $100 to the college will get a "personally engraved interlocking paving stone" installed in the walkways that will be incorporated into the landscaping at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake or Welland campuses, says Liz Palmieri, development associate for the Niagara College Foundation.

"The donor gets to decide what campus they want it at and they get to choose 12 characters each on three lines."

The donors could have their name inscribed on the brick, three of their children's names inscribed on the brick, or graduating classes could have their program name inscribed on a brick, says Palmieri.

"(The brick campaign) was unofficially launched a year ago. Because it is only a smaller level of donation, we're only starting to get active on it."

For more information on the campaign, call the Niagara College Foundation at 905-988-5211.

"It's a nice little campaign," says Palmieri.

Bank supports education partnership

The new Oenology programs at Brock University in St. Catharines and Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-in-the-Lake, received $80,000 funding from the Royal Bank of Canada on Oct.14 at White Oaks Conference Resort and Spa. From left are Don Davidson, manager of Royal Bank business banking for the Niagara area, David Atkinson, Brock University president, Dan Patterson, Niagara College president, and Doug McLennan, vice-president of Royal Bank's Hamilton-Niagara area.

Photo by Melinda Spurvey

Fee assessment deferred for part-time students

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Do you know where your money goes?

The Student Technology Enhancement Committee (STEC) had its first meeting on Oct. 26 where it deferred a decision on assessing fees to part-time Niagara College students.

The committee spends money raised by the $35 per term fee paid by each student. It's included in the $135 Student Administrative Council (SAC) fee.

Continuing Education students pay the fee as well, based on their contact time with faculty in class.

A fee for part-time students hasn't been set yet.

However, the committee referred the matter to the Fee Protocol Committee for consideration. It will return to STEC for a final decision.

In other business:

- The committee passed a motion making it mandatory for its annual membership to include a SAC representative from each campus.
- STEC spent $90,019 installing the open access lab at the Glendale campus.
- Melisa Dell, chair of the committee and a student representative on SAC, presented three student requests which were considered.

The first was for a colour laser printer to be available at each campus for student use. The second was for one scanner to be in each of the open access labs and the third was for laptops to be available at the Learning Resource Centre for students to sign out. STEC will wait for funding approval before deciding.

- The committee also approved spending $30 for food at each meeting, with the exception of noon meetings.

Niagara News printer wins award

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

The company responsible for printing the *Niagara News* has won a prestigious award.

CanWeb Printing Inc., located in Grimsby, won the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Enterprise of the Year Award at the fifth annual Niagara Entrepreneur Awards, held recently at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls.

"What a prestigious thing, to have this award," said Liz Holinaty, the company's office manager.

The company began operations about six years ago with four employees. The successful company has grown to 57 employees.

"It's just amazing how we've grown," she said.

The company uses state-of-the-art graphics facilities to maintain a high quality product, she said.

CanWeb has a worldwide reach, printing in languages such as Russian, Italian, Vietnamese and Dutch.

No advertising or sales people are employed by the company, as it relies on the power of word of mouth from its customers.

News Across Niagara

Literacy Link dealing with illiteracy head on

Fund-raising is essential to continue its services

By MELINDA SPURVEY
Staff Writer

What would it be like to read a book or sign and not comprehend the words or their meaning?

Adult literacy is a nation-wide epidemic. It affects 60 per cent of Niagara residents alone.

Literacy Link Niagara is a non-profit organization formed in 1991 to combat this problem.

It's part of a network of over 20 full and associate members including Niagara College (Literacy and Basic Skills), Niagara Regional Native Centre, the YMCA and others.

Catherine Gay Douglas, executive director of Literacy Link Niagara, says the organization was created to become a forum for its members.

"It (Literacy Link) was formed to respond to the needs of all literacy providers and programs who weren't really meeting or planning on a formalized basis, and it was decided to form them all into an organization that would do such a thing."

Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, receives a gift from Gaye Douglas, executive director of Literacy Link Niagara, as a reminder of the strong partnership existing between the college and the Literacy Link. The picture will be hung in the Literacy Basic Skills division at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Photo by Melinda Spurvey

Primarily funded by the ministry of education and training, the organization also receives assistance from the United Way.

Douglas says the role of Literacy Link has changed dramatically since it was first developed.

"The ministry is now asking us to be far more equitable than ever before and to have clear key functions, which we did not have in the past.

"Our primary job now is community planning, making sure that various programs across Niagara are being well served, and that these programs are doing their jobs, the learners are coming forward and progress is being made."

Fund-raising is essential for Literacy Link to continue its services.

An information/referral line at 1-888-644-READ (7323) is available for people needing assistance. Questions about volunteering and donations can also be addressed.

Club fosters womens's skills

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

A local club is taking an interest in women's welfare.

Since 1951, the Business and Professional Women's Club has promoted the talents and strengths of business and professional women.

Gathering once a month in a spirit of friendliness and co-operation, the club fosters growth in public speaking, leadership and organizational skills.

The goals are to improve the status of business and professional women through industrial, scientific and vocational activities.

The club strives to extend educational opportunities for all women by inviting a variety of "interesting" speakers to present to the club each month.

Since September, a chair from the Welland Hydro Commission and a representative from Niagara Regional Police have presented informative and inspirational speeches.

"I find them (the speakers) very interesting and I learn a lot," said 30-year member Twila Harpwood, 72.

On Dec. 19, Candice Paris, executive director of Niagara Rehab, will be featured at the regular meeting place, the Rose City Best Western on Prince Charles Drive in Welland, at 6:30 p.m.

Walt wants workers

By MELANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

Walt Disney International Programs offers students a working, learning and living experience, in Orlando, Fla., as one of the leaders in the hospitality industry.

Heather Smith, co-operative education consultant, organizes the recruitment for Walt Disney World at Niagara College. She recruits students to work at the Canada pavilion at Epcot Centre.

Steve Jent, area manager for the International programs, Kevin Polstra, International recruiter, and Charlie Joiner, area manager for merchandise and attractions for the Canada pavilion, came to Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre on Oct. 16 to interview students for employment at Walt Disney World.

Employees at Walt Disney World are called cast members. There are more than 50,000 cast members who work in areas such as merchandise, attractions, hospitality and food and beverage.

The program hires 50 students across Canada. Last year, 10 students were from Niagara College.

The cultural representative, world showcase fellowship and waterpark trainee are the three programs in which students can be hired.

The waterpark trainee and world showcase fellowship programs are six- to 12-month programs.

The cultural representative program is a 12-month program for Canadian students to represent Canada in the pavilion.

In the Canada pavilion, cast members play roles in food and beverage, merchandising and attractions.

"We have brought in merchandise from Canada to sell in the pavilion," says Polstra.

Maple syrup and candy, beaver tails pastries, seagull pewter, and leather goods are some of the items sold in the pavilion.

The Canadian restaurant is being remodeled and will be a Canadian steakhouse. More than 35 varieties of Canadian wines will be the restaurant's highlight.

Students will be hired in different areas, depending on their background experiences.

The living experience for students will teach them about different cultures. Students can have room-mates from countries such as Italy, Japan, China, Norway, France and many more.

Jent, Polstra and Joiner made a two-hour presentation about Walt Disney World before interviewing the students.

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News Across Niagara

ECT project in 'developmental stage'

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

Niagara College is a leader in entrepreneurship.

Temba Mjoli, 54, of South Africa, president of the Eastern Cape Technikon (ECT), located in Butterworth, and his wife, 52, Virginia, arrived in Canada Oct. 21 and left six days later.

Barbara Okanik, 38, manager of Niagara College's Innovation Centre at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, said the project is designed to assist the ECT establish a Business and Technology Enterprise Centre, a resource for entrepreneurship curriculum development, training and community-based business support.

"The purpose of their visit is to see how we have designed our business development centre, to look at the kinds of resources that we have available here and to meet some of the partners that we work with," said Okanik.

Mjoli said the ECT consists of 4,000 students studying in the school of engineering, business and science, and applied technology.

The ECT, a vocationally-oriented training institution, is strategically located in a region designated for industrial expansion by the national government.

Okanik said the project is in the developmental stage.

The total project duration is four years. It began late last year.

"We'll be opening the centre early next year, and there are some students who participate in this project and will be going over to South Africa to assist the opening," said Okanik.

The ECT is based in a region that is economically depressed and there is a tremendous poverty in the area, said Okanik.

"First of all, we want to start with students within the school and help them to understand the importance of considering strategies for self-employment," said Okanik.

Mjoli said, increasingly, students who graduate from college can't find jobs, so the project will have a "positive impact" on the South African economy because employment will be created by those students.

"It'll be a good opportunity for us to train them as job creators rather than be job seekers," said Mjoli.

Martha Casson, left, vice-president of Enterprise and Service Development, Temba Mjoli and his wife, Virginia Mjoli, Barbara Okanik and Jos Nolle, director of International Education Department participate at the Glendale campus opening.
Photo by Mun-Hee Shin

Job service centre opens all year for students

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

Students in the Niagara Region will now have year-round help in finding employment.

The Human Resource Centre of Canada for Students, previously open only for the summer, will now be open all year.

The Niagara Region is one of three areas in Ontario to provide that service.

The centre will help students find part-time work through the centre's offices or on the Internet.

All jobs are posted on the business information network Internet site.

The address is http://hrcc.becon.org/hrcc. It's updated every 24 hours.

On Nov. 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., centre staff will be at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls, the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Welland campus.

Janet Forfar, Niagara College consultant, graduate services, Welland campus, said the centre will set up booths at the three campuses, across from the Donut Diner at the Welland campus, in the main foyer at the Maid of the Mist campus and inside the main entrance at the Glendale campus.

"We would like to encourage students to stop there and find out how they can register if they're looking for part-time jobs, and then eventually summer work for next year."

The offices are in St. Catharines at 43 Church St., telephone (905) 988-4154, fax (905) 988-4159; Niagara Falls, 5853 Peer St., telephone (905) 354-2534, fax (905) 354-2591; Welland, 225 East Main St. (use 9 Burger St. entrance), telephone (905) 732-5025, fax (905) 735-7036. The hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. The office is closed daily between noon and 1 p.m.

The centre will promote students to employers throughout Niagara, provide information on federal and provincial youth employment initiatives, and provide access to current labour market information and on employee rights.

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Please make every effort to attend one of the following:

- **Glendale – 1:30 p.m., Nov. 3, Room W111**
- **Welland – 4:30 p.m., Nov. 3, Hamilton Rm.**

This is an important step in the future of our college. It will affect all of us directly and we all need to know what it means. ***See you there!***

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

For more information check out the ACAATO Web Site: http://www.acaato.on.ca/kpi

SAC

Fun days on your calendar courtesy of SAC planners

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) is planning many events for students.

Graduating students can get their grad photographs taken from Nov. 3 to 13. Students can register at the SAC office inside After Hours at the Welland campus.

Students at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake are holding their photo sessions from Nov. 17 to 24. Registration is at the SAC office at the Glendale campus.

SAC is sponsoring a hockey game trip to see the St. John's Maple Leafs play against the Hamilton Bulldogs at Hamilton's Copps Coliseum on Nov. 25. Tickets, which cost $10, are available at any campus SAC office. Buses will be leaving from the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls at 5 p.m., from the Pen Centre in St. Catharines at 5:30 p.m., and from Welland campus at 6 p.m.

Christmas isn't too far away and SAC is sponsoring a children's Christmas party at the Glendale campus cafeteria on Dec. 5 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for all students who have children However, registration must be in before Nov. 11.

The cost is $2. All children will get a gift as well as a visit from Santa. Cookies and juice will be served for the youngsters and coffee for the parents.

If students and faculty are interested in knowing what takes place at the SAC meetings, send your e-mail address to saconline@niagara.on.ca and SAC will put you in their e-mail distribution list.

The SAC Maid of the Mist campus is inviting everyone to a Bowling Night being held on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at the Cataract Bowl on Lundy's Lane in Niagara Falls.

On Thursday, Dec. 10, the Maid of the Mist Centre is holding a Christmas party. It will be at Best Western Cairn Croft on Lundy's Lane. Tickets will be sold at the SAC office at any campus. Tickets cost $15 and $25 for a couple. It is a formal event.

Alcohol Awareness Week is being held from Nov. 30 to Dec. 4, so take heed and watch what you're drinking. More information will be outlined at a later date.

Football trip benefits Big Brothers

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The Canadian Football League (CFL) still produces excitement.

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) organized a successful trip to SkyDome on Oct. 23 to attend a CFL game between the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and the Toronto Argonauts.

Hamilton demolished Toronto 45-8, and most of the Niagara College students were delighted with the outcome.

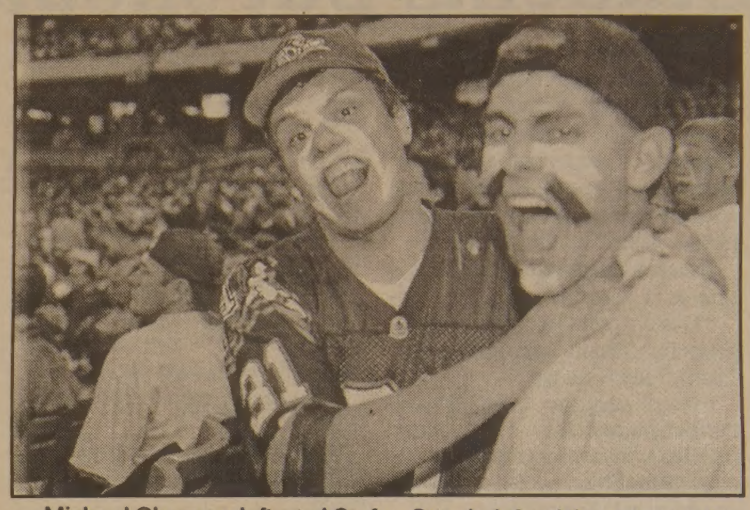
"I really enjoyed it," said Greg Harris, 20, a second-year student in the Tourism (Co-op) program. "It kicked butt. The teams played exceptionally well."

"This rules," said Tiffany Fox, 23, a third-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television, Film program student. "We (have) to do this more often."

Jamie Ebsary, Welland campus SAC president, said the trip was a success.

"It turned out really well," said Ebsary, 20, a second-year Law and Security Administration program student. "It would have been better if we had a better student turnout, but overall it went really well. I'm glad that we could donate some of the tickets to something as good as Big Brothers."

During the game, students were vocal in showing support for their favourite team. One of the biggest cheers came when the SkyDome Jumbotron welcomed Niagara College, one of the many groups who had come to the game.



Michael Chorney, left, and Stefan Struck defend the colours of their favourite teams during the SAC trip to SkyDome.
Photo by Lee Whitehead

After the game, Hamilton fans were anxious to let their feelings known.

"It was awesome to see all the Argos' fans wallowing in their own pity," said Stefan Struck, 21, a second-year Culinary Skills program student. "And the cheerleaders were hot, baby."

Kevin Fochuk, 20, a second-year student in the Culinary Skills program and SAC vice-president of campus affairs for the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls, said the highlight of the night was "the 45-8 score." Fochuk said the cheerleaders were "very nice."

Despite the lopsided score, the few Argos' fans among the students accepted the loss with dignity.

"It was a gripping loss for the Argos," said Michael Chorney, SAC vice-president of campus events for the Maid of the Mist Centre and a second-year Tourism (Co-op) program student. "But we're still holding our heads high because Argos don't cry."

STUDENT'S CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dec. 5/98
Glendale Campus
Students pay $2.00 when
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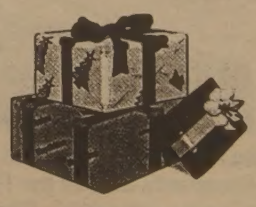

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Upcoming Events

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Welland Campus
Nov. 3 - 13
Glendale Campus
Nov. 17 - 24
Sign up in SAC office

Hockey Excursion
Hamilton Bulldogs
vs
Saint John's Maple Leaf
Nov. 25
bus leaves 5:00 MMC
5:30 Pen Centre
6:00 Welland
$10.00 - sign up in SAC

Alcohol Awareness Week
Nov. 30 - Dec. 4
Planned events at all campuses

Alexander Davidson Now Open at Glendale Campus - Check us out

Politics

Students put shoulders to debt grindstone

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

ST. CATHARINES — University students from across the province are protesting bank mergers, corporations and governments in their week-long Days of Action.

Brock University is no exception, says Larry Savage.

"This is a prelude to our goodbye party for (Ontario premier) Mike Harris," says Savage.

Savage says the local Ontario Public Interest Research Groups (OPIRG), in conjunction with 11 other OPIRGS across the province, co-ordinated the protest.

Between 1993 and 2000, the federal Liberals will have cut transfer payments to post-secondary education and training by $7 billion. Between 1993 and 1997, tuition fees have increased by 45 per cent, and the average student debt load reached $25,000.

In 1980, tuition fees comprised 13 per cent of university general operating income. By 1995-96, tuition fees accounted, on average, for almost 30 per cent of the general operating income for universities. At Brock, it's about 45 per cent.

Between 1985-86 and 1996-98, tuition fees rose by 155 per cent. In 1990, the average full-time undergraduate arts tuition in Ontario cost students $1,638. Last year that average was $3,234 — not including the 20 per cent hike over the next two years.

In 1995-96, 42.2 per cent of all Ontario university students required student loans. The average student debt load was $17,000 in 1996 and is estimated to jump to $25,000 in 1998.

Students cannot file for bankruptcy for at least 10 years after graduation.

Tuition fees (along with ancillary fees) have a major negative impact on the accessibility to the post-secondary education system. Older students, part-time students, first-year students and lower-income students are more likely to refrain from entering post-secondary studies, or drop out because of higher tuition fees.

• Average costs for one year of post-secondary education (includes cost of living) equal $15,000.

• Income earned in a full-time minimum wage student summer job equals $3,840.

• Percentage of people with post-secondary education living below the poverty line equals 27 per cent.

"These are the facts," said Abdel Mandoud, 25, president of the Brock Student Union.

"It's a good thing that students have a voice on campus. Students right now are very much in debt. Nothing will be done if we don't raise our concerns, have a voice."

Mandoud said tuition goes up every year and the government is not putting money into post-secondary education. He said they just keep "cutting and cutting."

David McNally, a professor of political science at York University in Toronto, spoke to students at Brock University during their week of action.

"We need to build a massive social movement that's prepared to challenge corporate power in this society," he said. "Challenge the corporate agenda and that means bringing together students, those of us who work either as staff or faculty, our allies in labour and social movements outside the universities."

McNally said the federal Liberal government, along with the Harris government in this province, is telling us the cupboard is bare. "The reasons they have to cut programs and cut funding and raise tuition is because there simply is no more social wealth available to fund higher education."

He said "the public must start by saying that is nothing but false-faced lies." He said 66,000 companies made profits last year and paid no corporate taxes.

"Corporations have $45 billion in deferred taxes, and Finance Minister Paul Martin announced a $3.5 billion surplus."

He said students can buy academic freedom, adding Dalhousie University in Halifax is offering a fully privatized master's degree in business administration.

'. . . false-faced lies.' — David McNally

"These people (bankers) are now directly coming in and taking over the education process, the teaching materials to develop curriculum and so on," said McNally. "We're dealing with a massive attempt by corporate power in this country—the power of capital, the banks and so on—to massively restructure our society and restructure our educational system."

He said at the University of Toronto today students can visit the Xerox library, or stop by the Price-Waterhouse seminar room.

Welland MPP Peter Kormos said, "Mike Harris and the Tories are abandoning public funding for education from elementary and secondary school through to college and universities."

He said it's just for a tax break for "his rich buddies" and he's telling students "they should pay higher tuitions so Harris's buddies can get tax breaks."

Kormos said he doesn't think that's what the people of Ontario want.

"Mike Harris has committed himself to lowering the minimum wage, also committed himself to building a low-wage economy. Become political like you've never been before because educated students are dangerous to Mike Harris."

OSAP equals debt

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

ST. CATHARINES — Rebecca McHugh, a first-year student at Brock University, says she doesn't know how she is going to pay for tuition next year.

McHugh says her parents earn too much money on paper for her to receive financial assistance for her educational costs.

The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) won't help her because "according to them my parents can afford to send me to school, (and) the school won't help (scholarships)." She says she was a top student in her Ontario Academic Credit (OAC) class.

She says it doesn't matter that she has siblings at home.

"They (OSAP and the university) don't want to hear about that," she says to the crowd. "In fact, maybe you could start saving your pennies for me."

David Metcalfe is a second-year student who says he wants to become a teacher. He says he's all ready $11,000 in debt.

Blain Butniec has a communications degree and is working on his honours. He says students should question society.

"Universities are supposed to be a place where you challenge society, you question society and improve society. It wasn't to come here and become a worker for a big corporation."

Some of the placards displayed read: "Crush corporate agenda—Stop the cuts," "Keep the public in post-secondary education," "Harris is a corporate fascist," "Keep tuition public—why can't we just learn," "Crush the banks" and "University is not a business."

As students and protesters marched along shouting "Stop the cuts," other students lined the hallways.

Tracey Payne wants to become a teacher. She has two children just starting school and says, "There wasn't much publicity about the protest, but I've been pretty busy."

Christine Chaloner, taking communications studies, says she saw a few signs on the walls but didn't pay much attention.

"What the protesters are doing is great," says Chaloner, "but classes are more important when we're paying for them."

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Premier's conference 'promising'

We are listening

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

Promises, promises and more promises were what Premier Mike Harris delivered during his opening speech at the Premier's Conference on Jobs and Prosperity.

"I wish I could make a promise to you that everything you wish for will be, but I can't do that," said Harris. "But I promise you we are listening. I promise you we are thinking of our children and their future. I promise you we will continue to do all we can to make Ontario the best place to live, invest and to work."

The conference at the Ramada Inn in St. Catharines was held on Oct. 22 to promote ideas from the community on creating jobs — attracting jobs, encouraging economic growth, maintaining jobs and building prosperity.

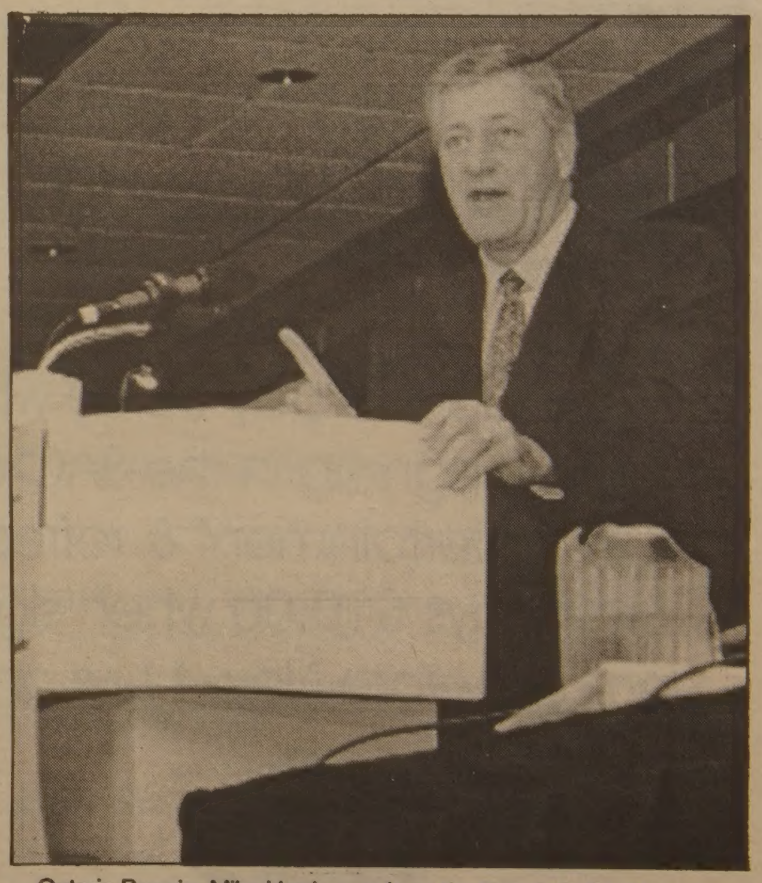
"Not just now, but into the future," said Harris. "Positive growth, positive forecast, positive future."

Harris told the 250 invitation-only participants more than 135,000 new jobs have created in Ontario.

He said 325,000 fewer people are on welfare and 60 per cent of those have full-time jobs.

The premier said this is a blueprint for a "successful future and to maintain quality health care and quality education."

"We have to make the best of our brain power, and conferences like this help us plan five, 10 and even 20 years into the future. Any ideas, doesn't matter where they come from. I'd steal a good idea wherever I saw it."



Ontario Premier Mike Harris speaks at the Premier's Conference on Jobs and Prosperity held at the Ramada Inn on Oct. 22.
Photo by Aaron Beaudoin

He said more and more rural people are migrating into the cities, waves of immigration have expanded our population resulting in schools, hospitals, roads, super highways and even a toll highway being built.

"Things change and will continue to change faster and faster every year. So we have less and less time to adapt to it. We can't afford to fall behind."

This conference is the third in a series of seven. The first one was held in Ottawa, then Kingston, St. Catharines and on to Sault Ste. Marie on Oct. 26, Thunder Bay on Nov. 6, and London on Nov. 20. The last in the series will be in Toronto Nov. 22.

News Across Niagara

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Koats for Kids provides winter warmth

Fund-raising essential for its services

By TYLER-LEIGH ROBINSON
Staff Writer

Bundle up with CRAC's Koats for Kids till Nov. 27.

The Welland Community Resource and Action Centre (CRAC) has been providing people in need with basic food and housing help for over 20 years.

The agency is at 77 Division St., in Welland, inside Holy Trinity Church. It is a member agency supported by the United Way.

Koats for Kids is asking people in the community to donate used or outgrown coats to those who can't afford them and who need to stay warm.

People wishing to donate coats can drop them off at the participating Lighthearts Cleaners, Highland Cleaners and Yazz Cleaners, all in Welland, and at Video Time, in Wainfleet.

The dry cleaners will clean the coats at no charge. The local taxi service will pick up the clean coats and drop them off at the designated distribution centre at 38 Division St. in Welland. It's open 10 a.m. to noon.

Larger size coats for men and women and children's coats are always needed the most.

CRAC provides many services and programs.

A soup kitchen runs weekdays at noon, giving people a hot meal and a chance to socialize for support and fellowship.

A monthly food bank helps people experiencing food shortages.

Housing help is available to the homeless or people at risk of being homeless because they're unable to pay rent.

CRAC also holds special events throughout the year offering people help with clothing and celebrating holidays.

The agency uses newspaper articles, pamphlets and word of mouth to get its message into the community.

Bernadette Corbin, executive director of the agency, said they have seen an increase in referrals from other United Way agencies and also from those on social assistance whose social workers have told them about CRAC.

from helping people who find themselves in a "bad situation" and giving them a little dignity until they are able to get on with their lives.

Corbin said the community needs the agency "to fill a gap in services not provided by the government."

"We shouldn't need this type of agency," said Corbin. "Everyone should be able to take care of themselves and others."

She said today's "social fabric" has changed and the needs within a society have changed.

CRAC is an open service for anyone needing help, even if that help is just providing someone to talk to.

The agency is open weekdays 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Blood donors say they would donate again

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

Blood saves lives.

Two hundred-seventy-two people will benefit from the 68 bags of blood collected by the Canadian Blood Services at Niagara College's first mini-blood donor clinic on Oct. 21 and 22.

"Numbers-wise it wasn't a great success but it was from a customer's standpoint. I've heard nothing negative about it," said Gary Kennedy, donor services representative.

At the completion of the clinic, the registered nurses were 22 pints away from their goal of collecting 90 pints, or bags, of blood.

Understanding the lifestyles of college students, a nurse explained the low participation could be because of the strict screening process.

"We had many self-deferrals, people that wanted to donate but couldn't because they had a cold, the flu, a virus, or other physical reasons," said Jamie Mattie, a 27-year-old registered nurse based in Hamilton.

People with a tattoo or body-piercing within the past year, or who have recently had sex with a partner whose sexual background is unknown, aren't allowed to give blood.

"At the college age, it's more common to deal with these practices."

"The standards are high for the safety of the donor and the person to receive blood," said Kennedy, donor service representative.

First-time donor Christine Cope, 19, and her boyfriend, Bradley Bullough, 20, both of Hamilton, took advantage of the pre-registration and booked their appointments together.

"I wanted to go before but I didn't have the time. I didn't want to go without him," said Cope.

Jamie Ebsary, 20, president of the Student Administrative Council at the Welland campus, donated for the first time.

"For someone who doesn't particularly like needles it was a scary thing, but I'll do it again."

For whatever reasons, the majority of Niagara College students didn't take part in this cause.

"I've thought about it but I'm just scared of needles," said Jamie Hunt, 18, of Thorold.

"I wanted to but couldn't because I'm underweight," said Reena Vudwal, 18, of Chatham.

Next year the clinic will be held in the Tecumseh Lounge.

Niagara challenges Brock in United Way fund-raiser

By TYLER-LEIGH ROBINSON
Staff Writer

Happy Halloween! Get those costumes ready.

Niagara College staff are preparing for the second annual Halloween challenge. The United Way college planning team is busy organizing for the Oct. 30 event.

The Niagara staff are being asked to participate in the event by dressing up in their favorite costumes and decorating various departments. Prizes will go to the most unique Halloween costumes.

The departments will be judged on which is the most creatively decorated.

Winners will receive prizes such as cakes and baked goods.

The Niagara College versus Brock University in St. Catharines challenge is continuing at a hot pace as the contest is to see which can raise five per cent more United Way donations than last year.

The winning institution will get to fly its flag on the other school's campus.

Niagara has had 124 staff members, who have donated $12,921.

Trish Labonte, chief librarian and the college's United Way co-chair, said, "We are well over the midway point," adding that 71 more people need to make donations for Niagara to win the challenge.

At the end of every week, staff who make a contribution will automatically have their names in a draw for prizes, such as a two-day vacation from work.

A parking pass is the prize for the challenge's final draw.

Faculty member arrested

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

A Niagara College teacher was arrested during class.

Rick Lutz, a professor in the Social Service Worker program at the Welland campus, was found in contempt of the United Way court on Oct. 16.

The United Way's 12th annual Jail and Bail fund-raiser was "fun," says Lutz.

Upon being arrested he was taken to the Seaway Mall in Welland and told he had to raise $25 before he could be released.

Lutz, who says he still doesn't know who signed him up for the event, raised $70.76 in one hour for the United Way by asking shoppers for donations and calling students and staff of Niagara College.

According to the warrant for his arrest, Lutz was charged with "violating the Education Code section 143—the lack of multiple choice questions on all exams."

Lutz says he's not involved in the United Way but said it's "a fun way of raising funds."

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Editorial

Niagara News

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Wearing poppies shows respect

Wear a poppy.

It's pretty simple to understand why, really.

It's unfortunate Remembrance Day passes as just another day to some people.

However, to those who do remember, it shows just how much appreciation goes to those young men who died in two world wars and other conflicts to protect our freedom.

Of course, nothing we do can ever repay those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Young soldiers in their late teens or early 20s who left everything behind — careers, educations, girlfriends, parents — to fight and die for something they believed in, surely should be remembered.

They died on foreign soil, far from the comfort of their own country, so that we could enjoy that comfort.

On Nov. 11, take the time and effort to wear a poppy to show your gratitude and appreciation to those who made your freedom possible.

After all, they did more than that for you.

Lee Whitehead

Tenacity yes, sincerity no

Ontario's voters are wondering when a provincial election will be called. That's not to say we aren't happy with the premier.

On the contrary, we're delighted with Premier Mike Harris's tenacity. His determination to control every dime associated with education should be admired.

When he was a teacher he fought for and won pay raises for himself and his fellow teachers. When he was a school board trustee he fought for and won a 64 per cent pay raise for himself and his fellow trustees.

Now that he's premier, he wants it all.

Forget the teachers. Forget the trustees ($45,000 a year for a trustee was outrageous). So the premier thinks letting them have $5,000 a year will bring out the really dedicated people. He's right.

He's upset with Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin because Martin's stealing a juicier piece of pie, that is, employment insurance.

We wonder if the premier is now setting his sights on becoming prime minister. (The scenario of a Tory ever becoming prime minister is fictional.) If he had the chance, he would no doubt cut all transfer payments to the provinces. Why not? He's turned his back on every other group to which he's belonged.

He wants it all with every penny accounted for. In itself, this is a good policy if his motives were sincere. We don't think so.

When that election call comes, he's going to fall. Not just fall, he'll be trampled on by the very groups he once fought for.

Elisabeth Irwin

Letters to the editor

Incorrect statement cause for concern

Dear Editor:

I wish to draw your attention to an incorrect statement that appeared in a recent article (Volume 29, No. 2, Oct. 16 edition of the Niagara News) about the Human Relations program at Niagara College.

*Students do not spend "three-*quarters of the two-year program involved in work experience."

A work experience component is provided during three of the four semesters, ensuring that at graduation each student has benefited from not less than 210 hours of experience in workplaces of his/her own choosing.

On a personal note and to clarify another point, I have worked at Niagara College for 25 years, primarily teaching in the now discontinued Registered Nurse program.

I have also taught in the Practical Nurse and Gerontology programs.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns regarding these statements.

Donna Conradi,
Co-ordinator,
Human Relations program

Thanks for accuracy

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the excellent coverage you (Rosemary Bartlett) provided on our recent breakfast seminar (Volume 29, No. 1, Oct. 2 edition of the Niagara News).

Your article focused on the points important to our service providers, that is, our program has Dr. Karen Shue's expertise behind it and the joint partnership behind it.

Our program allows people to recover at their own rate and it is available in Niagara.

Good luck with your studies.

Sincerely,

Catherine Denison,
client services representative
for the Ontario March of Dimes
in Niagara.

Another viewpoint

Dear Editor:

I wish to respond to the article headlined Teachers under scrutiny (Vol. 29, No. 2, Oct. 16 edition of the *Niagara News*), purporting to be an editorial and ascribed to you.

In an era of "gutter" press, I find it reprehensible that the editor of the *Niagara News* would publish such rubbish, let alone write it.

Obviously you adhere to the party doctrine, particularly the propaganda invading our airways and attempting to convey the same nonsense.

Just like your mentor, the minister of education, you have not the faintest idea what you are talking about. It is of interest that you refrain from "bashing" your college professors, perhaps after graduation?

I do not "excuse you," you have no excuse for this insult to my profession.

I suggest you go to a high school and verify your information before compromising journalism with such drivel.

Perhaps you should take your own advice: "try writing."

Ken E. Cosgrove,
Co-ordinator,
Art and Design Fundamentals
— Graphic Design Production

Speaking Out

Harris taking province back to Dirty '30s

Be prepared History is about to repeat itself

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

On Oct. 22, I had an opportunity to speak with Ontario Premier Mike Harris after the tree-planting ceremony and speeches were finished at Niagara College's new Glendale campus.

Well, I can't really make it sound that comfy. I dogged him until he had no choice but to speak with me.

He reveled in the adoration bestowed on him for actually letting this campus be built (the previous NDP government approved the project with Niagara College). Harris had enough sense not to take full credit for the $32-million provincially funded project. Apparently to him, this makes up for the cuts in the rest of the educational system.

I asked him if the moneys he said he's returning to health care and education was an election ploy and, if he were re-elected, would he yank it out again? When would he be calling an election?

On one hand he says money removed from education and health care was in bureaucratic waste. On the other, he's saying there are more taxes to cut. For whom? The people who said they didn't want tax cuts if it meant taking away from health and education?

Who is Harris referring to when he says we, his government, or the people are pulling his strings?

What that tells me is that it's an election ploy and, if re-elected, he will cut deeper than anyone thought possible.

I have to admit I agree with cutting the bureaucratic fat that was started by former Conservative Premier Bill (Hey, does the gardener's cousin have a job yet? If not, I'll create one for him.) Davis — but at what cost?

Asked if he'd be promoting any Niagara MPPs to cabinet positions, Harris said he'd be "shocked" if that didn't happen because people like Tom Froese were doing such a good job. Well, I almost relieved myself right there on the spot.

"I'm shocked," I say, but not as shocked as Froese was, standing a few feet away. Froese is the Tory MPP for St. Catharines whose job will disappear with the next election. I think his situation had just hit home. I watched his expression as he listened to the double talk coming out of his boss's mouth.

Not only has Harris forgotten about amalgamating the ridings to match federal ridings, but also the fact Froese is out of a job. I caught up with Froese afterward and asked him what he was going to do. We both started to laugh and Froese said, somewhat dumbfounded, "I don't know."

I never thought I'd feel sorry for a Tory, but at that moment I felt bad for Froese. The moment passed quickly. I wondered if Froese was seeing his boss, for the first time, as I see him.

I've said from Day 1 that when Harris is finished this province will look like the Dirty '30s.

Remembrance Day is fast approaching. I'd like you to ask your parents and grandparents what the 1930s were like. The stories you'll hear won't be pleasant. Be prepared. History is about to repeat itself.

Bullies wreck Halloween for little ones

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

How old is too old?

Every year children of all ages run door to door filling sacks with candy. The Halloween competition begins. Who can get the most candy by the end of the night?

The fun begins around 5 p.m. when the smallest children start their door-to-door experience, some for the first time. Costumes are usually handmade or small sleepers decorated as a favorite animated character.

Parents stay close to their children, helping them on and off the big steps leading to strangers' houses where candy is offered in return for a smile or giggle.

Later the older treaters emerge. This is usually the time when the five- and six-year-old children are just finishing up and the school children are beginning their treks. It's at this time, near 8 p.m., when *trouble begins.*

Last year I watched my five-year-old twin brother and sister get bullied by a bunch of school-aged children. They were about 14 years old and probably three feet taller than my siblings.

The Halloween competition was on for them. The twins were obstacles in their path.

It's sad how older children choose their own meaning for Halloween and start thinking a cheap mask from the dollar store will get them a sack full of sweets.

It's time to grow up and face reality. *These children should be taking* out a brother, sister or even a young neighbour to watch them have the fun they used to have as young children. It's their turn now.

To all the big ones who like to bully for candy, give it up and get off the streets.

Veterans deserve our thanks, gratitude

It was more than just bullets and bombs that won the war

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

They may never have fired a shot, but they won the war.

When we think of war we often picture the soldiers who stormed up the beaches of Normandy in the Second World War, but we don't often stop to think of how they and their supplies got there.

Long before any allied soldier set foot on the beaches, a war was raging on the vast expanse of the Atlantic Ocean.

German U-boats (or wolfpacks) torpedoed and sank thousands of merchant ships with a great loss of life and precious cargo.

It was these ships that carried the supplies and men across the sea to fight on those beaches as modern air travel didn't exist at the time.

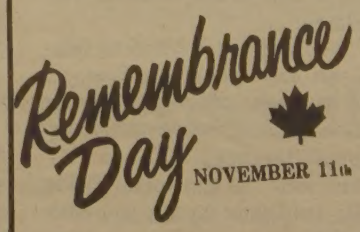
These men sailed across the ocean with a small group of naval ships as their defence. With a top speed of about eight knots, they were easy targets for the German wolfpacks.

Looking at a cenotaph you rarely see any reference to these ships and the men who sailed them. Instead you usually see the names of those who fought in the army, navy or airforce.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying they weren't important, but I think it is necessary for all of us to recognize it was more than just bullets and bombs that won the war.

The fact is, the war wouldn't have been won without them and the world you live in would be a much different place.

Saving Private Ryan stirs emotions



By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

This past summer I went to a theatre to see the film *Saving Private Ryan.* During the opening battle scene, a young lady behind me asked her boyfriend, "So who were the Americans fighting in this war?"

This upset me, and with reason. I find it discouraging that today's generation shows virtually no interest in paying tribute to those who died to give us our freedom.

They don't seem to realize the only reason they are able to watch films, among other things, is because a young man gave his life to protect people he didn't even know.

As for me, I was born 30 years after the Second World War ended. However, I still remember. It's my duty, as a Canadian, never to forget.

I will always remember Remembrance Day, 1995. That was the day I fully understood the importance of the day. I was watching a cenotaph ceremony on television when the trumpet started playing *The Last Post.* I focused and visualized young men, my age, being felled on the battlefields of Europe in order to protect their freedom. It was an emotional experience and brought tears to my eyes.

I only wish more young people would come to this realization and understand the importance of Remembrance Day.

It's important we all vote

I have one piece of advice: wake up

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Exercise your right.

In some countries people will wait in line for hours just to check a box on a ballot. Why? Because it's their right.

So what? you say.

Ah, but you see they didn't always have this right, not like you or me. We were lucky enough to be born with it.

Why then do a large number of you choose not to vote when it comes time for an election, or maybe you vote for whom your parents tell you to?

I have one piece of advice: wake up.

What those highly paid politicians do directly affects you, in your education, in your employment, in your health care and so on.

So why don't you care?

The next time you complain about something, such as the high cost of tuition, stop and ask yourself, did I vote and did I know who or what I was voting for?

Profiles

Teacher returns after professional leave

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

A Niagara College faculty member took the time to pursue his own philosophy of education.

Ed Wilson, 54, of London, coordinator of social sciences at Niagara, returned to the classroom this fall after a one-year professional development leave.

Before his leave, Wilson had been a consultant in human resources development at Niagara for six years. He said he felt the job was "fairly stressful," adding he "felt (he) needed a year to collect (himself)" before returning to the classroom.

During his leave, which began Aug. 31, 1997, Wilson took courses in EQ-i (Emotional Quotient Inventory), Alternate Dispute Resolution, CorelDraw and Microsoft PowerPoint.

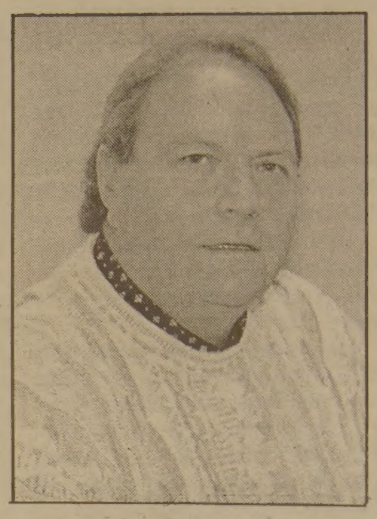
He took time to revise and edit the Invitational Education presentation and manual, wrote and revised the True Colors Facilitator's Manual and prepared notes and slides for the Learning College presentation.

Wilson also visited colleges across Ontario and in Prince Edward Island to participate in a number of conferences, workshops and seminars based on what he's learned.

The culmination of his leave is his presentation on the Learning College, which he gave at the annual New Directions Conference hosted by the Western Region Colleges' Professional Development Steering Committee.

Wilson said the presentation looks into what's in the future for colleges and their teachers and is based on what he learned during his leave.

He returned from his leave on June 19 and teaches five courses at the college concentrating on English and communications skills. One new course he will teach is COMP236 Organizational Communications, a post-graduate course in the Public Relations program.



ED WILSON

Wilson said he used his leave to "pull together (his) own philosophy of education."

He said he's bringing back a "renewed energy and desire" to the college after his leave.

"I think every teacher should consider applying for a professional development leave," said Wilson, adding it would leave them "revitalized" and would give them a chance to "reconsider their professional stance."

He said he believes it's good for the students, the college and the individual.

Graduate, 26, making a difference at Tri-Media

By LAZARUS NATHANE
Staff Writer

Niagara College graduates continue to make the difference in the fields into which they embark.

Their expertise is in demand and their contribution in today's multi-faceted workplace is valued.

One of the graduates is Valerie Sorrenti, 26, of Welland. The company she works for, Tri-Media Marketing and Publicity Inc., of Welland, is in the annual list of Canada's fastest-growing companies.

The list is compiled by Profit, a highly regarded national business magazine.

Tri-Media's founder and president, Albert Iannantuono, is a graduate of Brock University, in St. Catharines.

Located off Niagara and Thorold Streets, the company is in the marketing, advertising, design, public relations, research, web sites and multi-media business.

It has Maple Leaf Foods, Brinks, the Daimler Group and Canada's Consulate in Buffalo, N.Y., among its clients.

Tri-Media opened its doors in 1986 with one employee. Today it has 23 and is "still growing."

Sorrenti, a production co-ordinator, contributes to growth as she is an "asset not a liability" to her company.

She joined the company full time in July 1997, a month after graduating from the Business Administration program at Niagara College.

She says she has reasons to consider herself "lucky." First, she has known since her high school days marketing was her vocation.

Second, her ties to Tri-Media date to when she did her co-op there.

After acquiring hands-on experience, she enrolled at George Brown College in Toronto and completed a three-year program in graphic design.

"When we designed we were taught to get in the heads of others what we were designing," she says. "So, I came back to Niagara and took business at the college."

Asked why was it necessary to study at Niagara College when she had something solid behind her, she said she didn't want to be "simply a graphic designer."

"I wanted to know the marketing part of it." That decision helped, she says, because she wouldn't be in her position at Tri-Media were it not for the skills she acquired at Niagara College.

"Business Administration is a good program," she says, adding, its courses touched on what she is required to do at her job.

"Teachers as well as others showed us by practical example. They always brought a guest who works in the field if they could."

Besides the program, she recommends co-op to students for further preparation and to augment their chances of employment.

"We take co-op students at Tri-Media. Two from Mohawk College have been hired full time."

Asked about her job, she says it's challenging and requires resilience and flexibility.

"In this business there is no 9 to 5 if deadlines are to be met. Getting turnaround to happen to meet the deadline is always a challenge."

Her company puts emphasis on teamwork, she says, and her co-ordination duties call on her to do her part. She finds every working day "unpredictable and never boring.

'In this business there is no 9 to 5 if deadlines are to be met. Getting turnaround to happen to meet the deadline is always a challenge.'
— Valerie Sorrenti

"When people get bored it is because they know everything about their jobs or their jobs are routine. My job isn't."

Her responsibilities include obtaining quotes from vendors for print production based on specifications by the creative department.

She negotiates costs, prepares and reviews outgoing jobs and makes delivery time adjustments.

Also, she reviews completed material, meets with vendors and makes "sure" production material meets the deadline.

"No matter what position I hold, I must be ahead of developments and trends."

That, she says, contributes toward improving her agency's effectiveness and efficient service to clients.

Sorrenti may be working under one roof, but the duties of her job will eventually make her travel "to places such as Mississauga and Kitchener."

Given marketing is what she has always wanted to do, she says she doesn't see herself embarking on a different career. "This is it."

She has advice for those who want to work in the industry.

"You have to prove yourself. It's not easy. Don't get frustrated by the number of interviews you go to and the resumes you send.

"Also, set goals and strive to obtain them. It's equally important to take the time to enjoy life."

Mexico, Brazil valuable experiences

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

There's a new face on campus.

Joanne Klassen, 23, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, is the newest sessional English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Niagara College.

Klassen graduated from Brock University in the spring in the faculty of education where she obtained her ESL qualifications.

She teaches oral communications, grammar, and reading and writing to level three students.

She said the main reason she teaches ESL is because she "enjoys international people."

Klassen said "the best part of my job is (the) relationships I'm building with my students, and getting to know (their) cultural backgrounds."

She said the small class sizes, generally less than 15 students, are "good."

"The environment allows you to get to know each other."

Klassen has such an interest in international people and their cultures she has travelled to Brazil and Mexico where she did volunteer work.

In September of 1993, Klassen went with a program, called Youth With a Mission, to Texas for three months.

She returned for Christmas and then in January went to Brazil for two months to start her volunteer work.

She said she worked with street children, feeding and clothing them, and building a house for them. It was a rehabilitation house that helped children with addictions. The children can then go home or find another place to live after they recover, said Klassen.

In January 1997, Klassen journeyed to Mexico for one month with her husband. Her community service work included helping to build a church and working with children.

"We lived with a Mexican family and they spoke only Spanish, and we spoke only English, said Klassen, adding "we were forced to learn the language."

She said she can relate to the ESL students trying to learn English.

"The best way to learn is to be surrounded by it and to have to speak it."

"(Going to) Brazil and Mexico (were) the most valuable experiences I've had. I recommend it to anyone who is interested in another culture or going overseas."

Klassen said her students are "eager to learn" and they're always asking how they can learn more not only about school but about the Canadian culture.

She said the staff are "very helpful" and they "work as a team."

Klassen said she is still in the process of adjusting to being a teacher.

"(I) remember what it's like to be on the other side of the desk."

She's adjusting to the workload and says, "(Teachers have) more work than students," because they are constantly "making sure students understand and are evaluating them."

"I'll learn that's OK."

Outside of school Klassen said she likes to make crafts and "enjoys spending time with her family and friends."

She plays "competitive" volleyball, and "enjoys" swimming and skating.

Klassen said this is her first teaching job. It will end in December.

Don't miss out on the events...
Read your newspaper tonight!

Campus News

New division trains students for future

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

A new branch of Niagara College's Continuing Education division is training students for the future.

The branch, new this year, is designed to deal with all computer-product specific accreditation.

The branch offers a diploma course to become a Microsoft certified systems engineer (MCSE) including A+ certification. A preparation course for the program is offered for students who aren't as proficient in computers as they need to be to take the program.

Toni Lepp, 37, of St. Catharines, technical education co-ordinator of Microsoft programs, and Phillip Mazzone, 63, of Niagara Falls, education manager of Microsoft programs, head the new branch.

Lepp said the program offers its students "internationally recognized accreditations."

Mazzone said the program gives students the skills necessary to network, service and troubleshoot, adding they are "really the next most important stages in computing."

The program, at the Glendale campus, takes 19 weeks to complete, during which students attend class 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. five days a week and have another two hours of lab time daily.

Students must pass six of seven exams to earn the MCSE accreditation. The exams aren't written on campus.

Lepp will schedule a time for students to write exams at one of two places in the region certified to give the exams.

She said there are plans to have the college certified in future.

The program is also offered at night and takes 45 weeks to complete with students attending classes two evenings a week for three hours and each Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dan Lynam teaches the classes and is trained specifically to do so.

To enter the program, students must have an interview with Lepp and Mazzone and meet their approval.

The program cost is $10,500, including materials. The preparation course, for those requiring it, is an additional $375.

'They want exams to be hard so the accreditations will mean something.'
—Toni Lepp

Lepp said the cost is high because of the equipment necessary to train the students, adding all students receive their own hard drive.

As this is the program's first term offered through Niagara, there are no job placement numbers, but Mazzone said there is a "huge demand" for MCSEs.

Lepp said of this term's students four have been offered jobs.

The program runs three times during the year, in September, January and March. Enrolment is limited to 16 people each term.

Mazzone said openings are available for the March start.

He said the program is "very demanding," and the exams are difficult.

"They want the exams to be hard so the accreditations will mean something," said Lepp, adding the standards are global.

In the future, the branch will offer other computer specific accreditation courses.

Bookstore offers large-store advantages

Firm looking to expand services

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — Barnes and Noble College Bookstores can offer "the advantages of a large company," said Deborah Parker, regional manager of Niagara College's two bookstores.

Niagara College and Loyalist College, in Belleville, are the only two colleges in Canada where Barnes and Noble has operations, but the firm is looking to expand, said Parker, of Cameron Mills, N.Y.

Barnes and Noble operates 350 college bookstores in the United States, three of which are at the University of Rochester, Buffalo State and Niagara University in Buffalo, N.Y.

Parker's office is in Geneseo, N.Y., but she said she visits Niagara College often, every two weeks for now and once a month when the renovations are finished.

She said Barnes and Noble can offer a lot of support from all the different campuses on which they operate.

She said an example of this would be when they first took over the college stores on Aug. 4 here.

"We brought in nine people from the States," said Parker, adding they were there to help with textbook returns and inventory set up.

She said a different mix of products will be offered.

"We are buying as much Canadian as we possibly can, but there are still some things that are not necessarily better to buy in Canada because of our buying power in the States."

Parker said she's been meeting with the regional manager for Loyalist College to try to establish a buying power in Canada.

The fact the company is American should not be a concern, she said, adding the company wants to buy in Canada to build the Canadian portion of Barnes and Noble.

The reason the company replied to the college's proposal request was because it wanted to "break into the Canadian market," she said.

What will students notice most?

Parker said a lot of people worry about price increases.

"We're trying to make sure that it doesn't. Textbook pricing is definitely not going up, even though the publishers' prices are going up. We can't control that, but we are operating on the exact same margins that Niagara College was when they were operating it," said Parker.

She said depending on how many faculty authors there are in the college, they may have author book signings and feature them.

Barnes and Noble will bring in computer software in addition to that required for courses, she said.

'We're Niagara College's bookstore. We're not Barnes and Noble's bookstore.'
—Deborah Parker

"We carry over 1,000 titles in computer software at academic pricing, so it is better than what you can get at a computer store."

They will be surveying the students, faculty and staff to see what they want as well.

Some students may have noticed the company sells used textbooks.

Parker said this works by the professor placing an order for a text used the previous term or year. Barnes and Noble will buy the used text from students for half of what they paid.

"We will then mark that book up and put it back on the shelf — what we call buying retail."

This system replaces the wholesaler who usually came to the college at the end of term to buy used textbooks from students for a much lower price, she said.

Barnes and Noble has two programs for hiring students, said Parker.

"First, we will hire some temporary students, once we are up in normal operation, to help with cashiering and possibly to help with book-keeping and those are just part-time hourly positions," she said.

Barnes and Noble offers a one-year manager-in-training program. A student is "guaranteed" 20 paid hours weekly, she said. After graduation, there's a "guaranteed" job. However, this program won't likely be starting this year.

Parker said Barnes and Noble wants to become part of the fabric of the college.

"We're Niagara College's bookstore. We're not Barnes and Noble's bookstore.

"We are part of the team here. We can just offer you the advantages of a large company."

Fire drill cancelled

By CHRISTINE MORGAN
Staff Writer

Upon hearing the alarm, leave the building using the closest exit.

Many students and faculty probably didn't remember the annual fire drill Sept. 14. That's because it didn't happen.

It's the first time a fire drill has been postponed because of contract work, says Rick Demers, Niagara College's manager of health, safety and security.

Demers says, after inspecting each campus, it was decided "for safety reasons" not to have a fire drill.

Because of the large amounts of construction at the Welland and Glendale campuses, many areas were determined to be too difficult for people to evacuate from, he says. Specifically cited were supplies stored in hallways.

Demers says it was better to postpone the drill until renovations were done.

A rescheduled date for this term's fire drill is undetermined.

Maid of the Mist Centre invites all

By DAVID OLSEN
Staff Writer

NIAGARA FALLS — There's a party going on and everyone's invited.

It's the third annual Community Open House by Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre for Hospitality and Tourism on Oct. 31 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The open house will feature food and wine tasting seminars, program exhibits for Hotel and Restaurant Management and Tourism, international students' displays, casino dealer seminars, as well as cooking and baking demonstrations.

Representatives from admissions and financial aid, continuing education, registrar's office, co-op services, counselling/health services and Student Administrative Council will be on hand to answer questions.

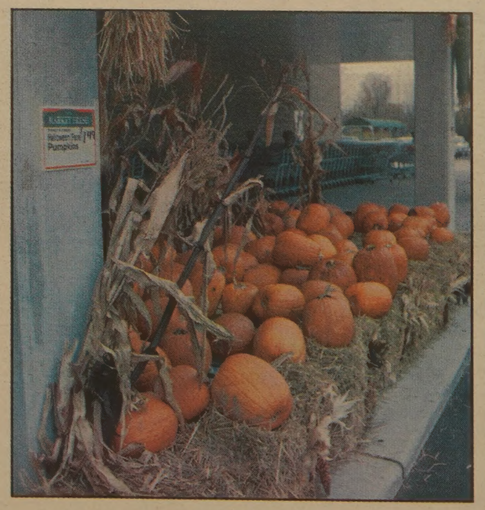
Information about programs starting in January and September 1999 will be available.

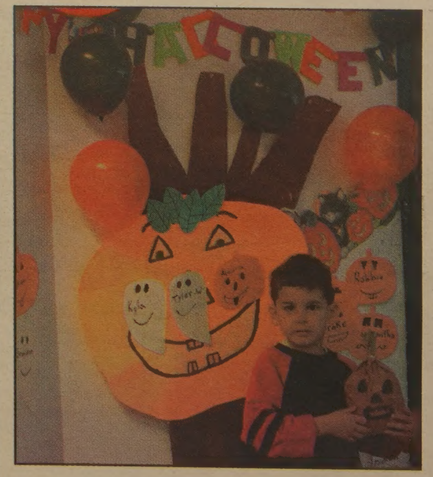
The centre's Kerrio dining room will be open for complimentary refreshments. Visitors are welcome to read the Kerrio Room's fall luncheon and dinner menus.

The Maid of the Mist Centre is at 5881 Dunn St., Niagara Falls.

Halloween

Photographs by:
- *Jackie Field*
- *Jenn Moir*
- *Mun-Hee Shin*
- *Mary Warriner*





'I vant to suck your blood'

By LARISSA KONDUSKY
Staff Writer

Today Dracula is known as a character on the big screen and a Halloween novelty, but in the 1400s he was much different.

Vlad Tepes Dracula was born in 1431 and was the son of the military governor of Transylvania.

In 1442, Dracula and one of his brothers were taken hostage for political reasons by the Sultan. He was held in Turkey until 1448.

Being a captive of the Turks for six years indeed played an important part in his upbringing and negative attitude.

The Turks released him only after they told him his father had been assassinated in 1447.

Dracula's brother was also killed. He was tortured and buried alive by the Boyars of Tirgoviste.

In 1448, at age 17, Dracula tried to seize the Wallachian throne, only to be beaten out by his father's assassin, Vlasislav II.

In 1456, Dracula finally seized power and killed Vlasislav II.

His reign of brutal punishment began.

He arrested any Boyar family that was involved in his father's assassination and his brother's death.

He killed the older ones by piercing their bodies with sharp stakes and forced the others to march 50 miles without resting.

Dracula then forced those who survived to build him a fortress. This fortress is now known as Castle Dracula.

Dracula often ordered inhuman punishment techniques be performed on people that disobeyed his order.

Punishment included skinning, boiling, decapitating, blinding, strangling, hanging, burning, roasting, hacking, nailing, stabbing, and cutting off of noses, ears, sexual organs and limbs.

Dracula's favourite technique, however, was impalement.

The Romanian word "Tepes" means "The Impaler."

Even the Turks referred to him as "Kaziglu Bey," meaning "The Impaler Prince."

Throughout his land Dracula demanded honesty and order.

Impalement was punishment for almost any crime, from stealing to lying.

Dracula believed in his law and its effectiveness so much he placed a gold cup in the central square. Anyone could drink from it, but it was not to be taken out of the square.

The cup was never stolen and remained almost unmoved throughout his reign.

Dracula was also concerned that his citizens be productive to the community. He looked at the poor and sick as beggars and thieves.

He invited all the poor and sick to his court in Tirgoviste for a feast. After they ate, Dracula had the court boarded up and burned.

They all died.

In 1462, Dracula launched a campaign against the Turks. Even though the military forces of the Turks were greater than his, he was successful, but not for long.

The Turkish sultan invaded Wallachian. He wanted to make it Turkish land.

Dracula was forced to retreat towards Tirgoviste without any allies.

He then burned his own villages and poisoned the wells along the way. Dracula did not want his enemy to have any food or drink.

When the Turkish army reached the city, they found about 20,000 Turkish carcasses on stakes.

The sultan was defeated.

This scene was known as the "Forest of the Impaler."

Radu, Dracula's younger brother and the one favored for the Wallachian throne, chased Dracula to the Poenari castle.

This is the time when Dracula's wife is said to have jumped from the castle to the river below.

Dracula escaped by using a secret passage into the mountains.

He was helped by peasants and reached Transylvania, where he was imprisoned by the king.

In 1475 he was once again acknowledged as the prince of Wallachia and was assassinated only one year later.

Remember, Dracula got his name from vicious and disgusting inhumanities. The next time you want to dress up like him, at least you will know what he was all about.

Week of the Child

Week shows commitment to child care

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

Children are the future and recent Week of the Child events encouraged quality child care.

Official kickoff ceremonies were held Oct. 19 at Niagara Regional headquarters in Thorold. Healthy child development, effective parenting and equity for children with special needs were emphasized.

Debbie Zimmerman, of Grimsby, regional chair, spoke at the ceremony, saying it's "an important time for all of us to get together and remember that the children are our future and the best quality child care we can provide is a responsibility we all have."

Zimmerman said the regional government tries to provide the best child care.

Roy Adams, of St. Catharines, regional chair of the community and health services committee, proclaimed, "Boys and girls, this is your special week."

Adams says, "Children pick up things very quickly these days because of the benefits of quality day care, preparing them for their days in school and the years that follow."

The Week of the Child is held annually in the third week of October.

Susan Reid, director of community services development, says this is the time for "celebrating the children of Niagara."

Melinda Hinks, master of ceremonies and child-care parent and consumer, made the first annual art presentation to five-year-old Brendan Keeping. His drawing is now on cards available at all Week of the Child events.

Janice Horner, chair of the kick-off celebration, says as a community the region's challenge is to "continue to work together to ensure that all young children are nurtured, nourished and educated in their early years in a way that sets them a strong foundation for them to be able to become productive citizens of the future."

Horner finished her speech by saying the child care community has "pride and commitment to the issue of quality child care because we know that it does make a difference."

Josie Spafadora, early childhood educator, helps children kick off Week of the Child.
Photo by Amy Kaal

Niagara day-care employee recognized

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — It was one night to recognize years of dedication.

The meaning of the evening was to "focus on the outstanding merit of those people who educate and care for children," said Darlene Edgar, who has been involved in child care for 25 years.

Edgar chaired the Awards of Excellence evening at White Oaks Inn and Racquet Club in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Last year was the first year for the Awards of Excellence and the event was described as "an astounding success."

This year a Contributors Award was added to give a wider opportunity to more people who contribute and dedicate a good part of their lives to young children, whether they are staff or volunteers.

Edgar said she recognizes "without those many volunteers, many of our organizations would not exist."

Neither the committee, nor the Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario, nor the Early Childhood Canadian Centre choose the recipient. Winners are selected by secret ballot, or by the administrator.

Shanyn MacKie, left, and Lena Van Esch, right, sit with Pat Eversden, manager of the Niagara College Child-Care Centre at the Awards of Excellence ceremony held at White Oaks.
Photo by Deborah Richardson

St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley and St. Catharines Mayor Tim Rigby attended the meeting to show their recognition for the hard work put into early childhood development.

Bradley said by being a teacher 22 years ago, he recognizes and admires "the importance of those who work with the very youngest children in our society."

He said he believes "if we do not work with these children at this very young age, we will see some who may not achieve their whole potential.

Bradley said he recognizes their "awesome responsibility" for a position that is "highly underrated" and even "underpaid."

Sponsors of the evening included Jelly Beans In A Jar, Port Colborne Co-operative Child Care Services and St. Catharines Co-operative Services.

Presenters of the awards were Tammy Ferguson, executive director of Early Childhood Community Development Centre in St. Catharines, and Debbie Bent, president of the Niagara Branch of the association for Early Childhood Educators.

Centres being recognized included Dr. Fingland ChildCare Centre, Kids World, Little Darlings and Niagara College Child Care Centre.

'Without those many volunteers, many of our organizations would not exist.' — Darlene Edgar

The Award of Excellence from the campus day care was awarded to Lena Van Esch, an employee at the Niagara College Child Care Centre in Welland. Van Esch was described as "energetic," and a "team member who is dedicated and respected by her peers and maintains a high profile within the community and is dedicated to the profession."

Van Esch was also presented with a bursary award to attend the National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference being held in Toronto.

The Niagara College recipient for the new Contributors Award was Shanyn MacKie, 27, of Welland, a second-year Social Service Worker program student, a single mom and chair of the Parent Advisory Group.

Week of the Child

Growth showcased in Child Care Week

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

Quality child care's growth and importance were showcased in a week-long celebration by the Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario.

The goals of Week of the Child were to show parents and the community the importance of quality in early childhood education.

The official kickoff ceremony was held Monday morning at Regional Niagara headquarters' council chambers in Thorold. Debbie Zimmerman, regional chair, Roy Adams, regional chair of the community and health services committee, and Susan Reid, director of community services department, all appeared to give greetings from the region.

Road Runner Kiddie Train and Cuddles the Clown made their appearance on Tuesday, while the kindergarten group went on a day trip to the Welland Public Library.

A display was held at the Seaway Mall on Thursday morning with children from Niagara College's Child Care Centre showing their imagination by colouring and drawing.

Barney's in the lead

A parade across campus, led by Barney, took place Wednesday morning and included an appearance from Welland's Mayor Dick Reuter.

Pony and donkey rides Wednesday afternoon were offered by Dusty and Jiggs from Pony Rides, owned by Sue and Leon Atkins, of St. Catharines.

Thursday morning the preschool 1 class visited senior citizens from Sunset Haven. The annual Awards of Excellence ceremony was held at White Oaks Inn and Racquet Club in Niagara-on-the-Lake that evening.

Children from the child care centre had a photo session by Lighthouse Photography on Friday morning. A ticket draw was held in the afternoon for a gourmet basket with a fall theme by the Parent Advisory Group to end the week.

And the winner is . . .

Shanyn MacKie, back, chair of the Parent Advisory Group, holds a basket raffled off by the group, with help from her daughter, Kanika, middle, and friend Kennedy, both 3, and Pat Eversden, manager of the Child Care Centre. The winner of the basket was Chris Stevenson, of Welland. Tickets were sold for $1 or three for $2. All proceeds went to the centre for more toys and new facilities for the children.

Photo by Deborah Richardson

Student's contribution to children's success garners accolades

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

A single mom and full-time student got the recognition she deserves from the people she admires.

Shanyn MacKie, 27, of Welland, received the first Early Childhood Education Contributors award at the Awards of Excellence held at White Oaks Inn and Racquet Club in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Oct. 22.

MacKie said it was "quite an honour just to be nominated but to have the recognition of people here at the day care whom I very much respect and in return care for deeply. It . . . meant the world to me."

To be eligible for the award a person must be involved with early childhood education and give extensively of himself or herself. The person must go beyond the call of duty and bring significant experience and a genuine interest and care for the quality of early childhood education.

MacKie said she does this through being chair of the Parent Advisory Group and being involved in all the fund-raisers.

MacKie is a second-year Social Service Worker program student at Niagara College and a mother of two children, ages six and three.

"I'm very dedicated not only to my children's lives and their education but of all children."

Her passion is women's and children's issues. As a student of social work, she said she feels very strongly that "we all take part in doing whatever best we can as individuals to insure they get the best head start in life."

MacKie said she believes in the saying "it takes a village to raise a child."

"I think it's an awesome village here and gives them a great start."

MacKie operated her own home day care for four years, starting just before the birth of her first child.

She said she felt "very strongly" this was the best job anybody could have because she brought to it her teaching assistant diploma experience and had "very fun and flexible but structured days. I thought it couldn't get any better than that."

After deciding to attend college full time she knew she needed child care.

'It takes a village to raise a child' —Shanyn MacKie

"The first couple of weeks here I was actually still a little uneasy and spent a lot of time in the observation rooms and realized that they just loved it here and the people were genuine, caring and experienced individuals."

MacKie said it was obvious this was a "great place." She said it showed on her children's faces. They are "great judges of character."

In her first pregnancy, MacKie thought she needed more than what she was doing with her home day care service. She took a correspondence course for her teaching assistant diploma through Toronto.

MacKie said at the recent awards ceremony, she could see the "anticipation of all the people and how excited they were, whether they had been receiving an award or not."

She said there was "an energy through that room that I had never experienced before."

"Whether I had received an award or not, I was so privileged to be there. It was a very exciting time."

MacKie said she feels it's difficult to thank people specifically because there are "so many people" to whom she is thankful.

"I would be thankful for my kids. They are my true motivator."

She said her children have opened her eyes to "so much more."

As chair of the Parent Advisory Group, MacKie said she thinks her role is to "encourage other parents to come on board and to share their ideas and concerns and be a collective agency within ourselves."

She said she plans different things to help parents, to lighten their load and get feedback on things she hasn't learned.

"I feel like I'm chairing the position but I think I'm just as much as a full participant and willing to learn from them."

MacKie said she feels Week of the Child has been "a wonderful thing."

She said taking a week rather than a day shows various facets of what children are and "what we need to do for them."

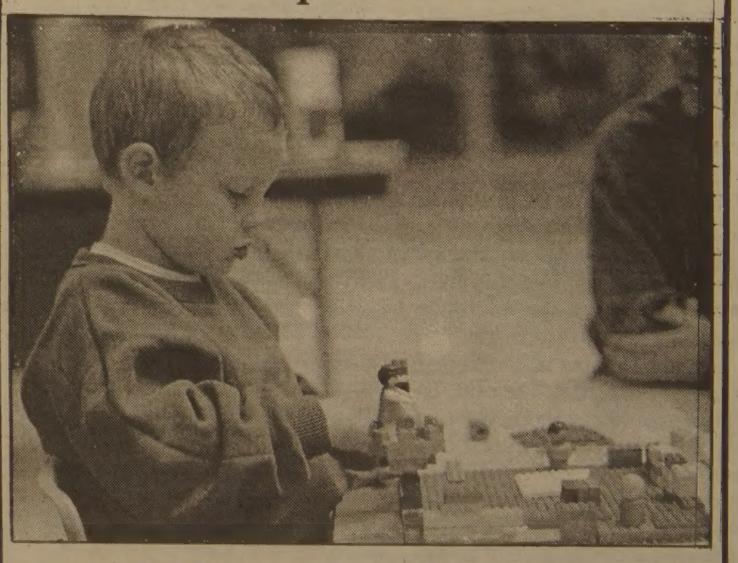
"Even from last year I noticed that there's much more media being represented and it's really becoming evident to a lot of people now, the importance of what our children need."

Friends in high places

Barney, Welland's Mayor Dick Reuter and Lena Van Esch, Child Care Centre employee and bursary award winner, parade around Niagara College's Welland campus.

Photo by Deborah Richardson

No distractions please



Brendan, 3, of the Niagara College Child Care Centre, enjoys activities at the centre's display at the Seaway Mall in Welland.

Photo by Amy Kaal

Entertainment

Sole Niagara entry wins top Telefest award

Telefest's best documentary winners were Phil Pattison, left, and Lou Iveges.

Photo by Noelle Stapinsky

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

TORONTO — Move over, James Cameron. Niagara College students are moving up in the film industry.

The documentary *Faces of Comedy,* directed by Lou Iveges, 34, of Tillsonburg, and produced by Phil Pattison, 24, of Hamilton, won first prize for best documentary at the YTV's 18th annual Telefest awards on Oct. 15 in Toronto.

Iveges and Pattison are graduates of the college's Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program.

About 600 people attended the awards program, which was hosted by Joe Motiki and Stephanie Broschart, hosts of children's televisions shows for TV Ontario.

The Niagara College documentary was competing against projects from students at Sheridan College, Ryerson University and York University, all institutions respected for their film programs.

"I was just there to have fun," said Pattison, adding the presenters announced there was a tie for third place.

'I saw our names and a clip from our documentary and I realized we had won' —Phil Pattison

"When we were not included, I looked at Lou and said we were at least second, then as I looked up at the screen I saw our names and they showed a clip from our documentary and realized we had won," said Pattison.

The *Faces of Comedy* documentary was the only nominated entry from Niagara College.

Pattison and Iveges went on stage to accept their award and to make a short speech.

Pattison thanked many people. Iveges thanked all those involved in the making of the documentary.

Thirty-five awards were given for the best student films in Ontario. There were 18 first-place prizes.

Handing out the awards were many prestigious members of the film and television industry, including Telefest patron Linda Schuyler and Clive Smith, actors; a Toronto Star television critic; filmmakers; Rudy Buttignol, TVO's creative head of documentaries, science and independent production; and Craig Webster, award-winning film editor.

"We've won best drama twice, best documentary three times and we've also received awards for crafts and cinematography," said Elias Petras, co-ordinator of the film program at Niagara College.

"All films are judged at the school before the chosen films are entered in Telefest . . . our reputation rides on it," said Petras.

BRTF students finalists at Montreal World Film Festival

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

It may not be an Academy award, but it is a tremendous achievement by students just starting their careers.

Niagara College's Broadcasting — Radio, Television, and Film (BRTF) program students have gained national recognition for a film made in Welland.

Crossing is a 45-minute drama written by three of the college's BTRF graduates from last year. It was submitted to the Montreal World Film Festival in the student category. It was a national competition.

Crossing received an honourable mention ranking in the top three of the student category.

The festival took place in September for three weeks.

There were more than 30 films entered in the student category with a wide variety of dramas to short-animated films.

The drama was written by Justin Simms, Mike Wood and Dan Trouin-Charters, all od whom graduated last April. Wood played an important role in the film.

The drama is about small-town life, a strike at the small-town factory and the problems of a small-town man. All scenes were shot in Welland last February outside an old cotton factory.

Simms, Wood and other members of the film's crew attended the festival and the awards ceremony in Montreal.

Crossing was given a public screening before more than 500 people during the festival. Crew members constructed picket signs with the film advertisement on them and marched outside the theatre to drum up publicity.

"It was a shock that we placed within the top three," said Justin Simms, 24, of Mount Pearl, Nfld.

He said there was a "funny moment" when the crew was filming a strike scene when passing motorists honked their horns in support of the pickets as if it were a real strike.

"We could only enter our film in the Montreal festival because it was 45-minutes long. It couldn't go to Telefest because of their 20-minute limit, and surprisingly we placed in the top three," said Simms.

Audience goes for 'lowest common denominator'

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Logic would dictate anyone attending Comedy Night at After Hours would be interested in watching a comedy show.

Not necessarily, as the audience proved on Oct. 21.

The trouble started shortly after Vancouver's Simon Menahem, 27, took the stage at Niagara College's Welland campus. Menahem has toured Canada, and his credits include performing at the Just For Laughs comedy festival in Montreal.

Menahem had a slow start, but came back with some very funny, well-worked material. Unfortunately for him, little of it centred around sex or drugs.

Halfway through his set, he started a short bit involving a strip club, which finally got the audience responding.

"You guys are pervs. I've found the level of the room," he said. To confirm it, he also asked how many people in the room were porn fans—about half were—and later asked what everyone wanted to talk about. The response was "sex!"

After the show, Menahem talked about how the audience responded to "the lowest common denominator."

'It's a lack of courtesy' —Glenda Turner

"Anybody who does those jokes is going to get laughs," he said, "but I pride myself on being original."

"With my type of show I can't bring it to what they want, and in this environment it makes me look bad," he said.

After Menahem's 45-minute set, Edmonton's Kevin McGrath, 35, came on to meet a similar fate, but his energy level and more forceful attitude alleviated much of the audience's apathy.

His material was more "on the edge" than Menahem's. The response generally reflected that change, but some of his performance still went over the audience's heads. His impression of Ted Baxter from the Mary Tyler Moore Show got virtually no response.

McGrath did score some points, however. An impressive card trick as his finale seemed to jump-start the crowd just in time for them to leave.

McGrath had a lot of energy and very strong material, but it still didn't stop members of the audience from making their presence known.

Through both sets, people yelled out things like "you suck," and one person started pointing a red laser light onto the video screen at the back of the stage.

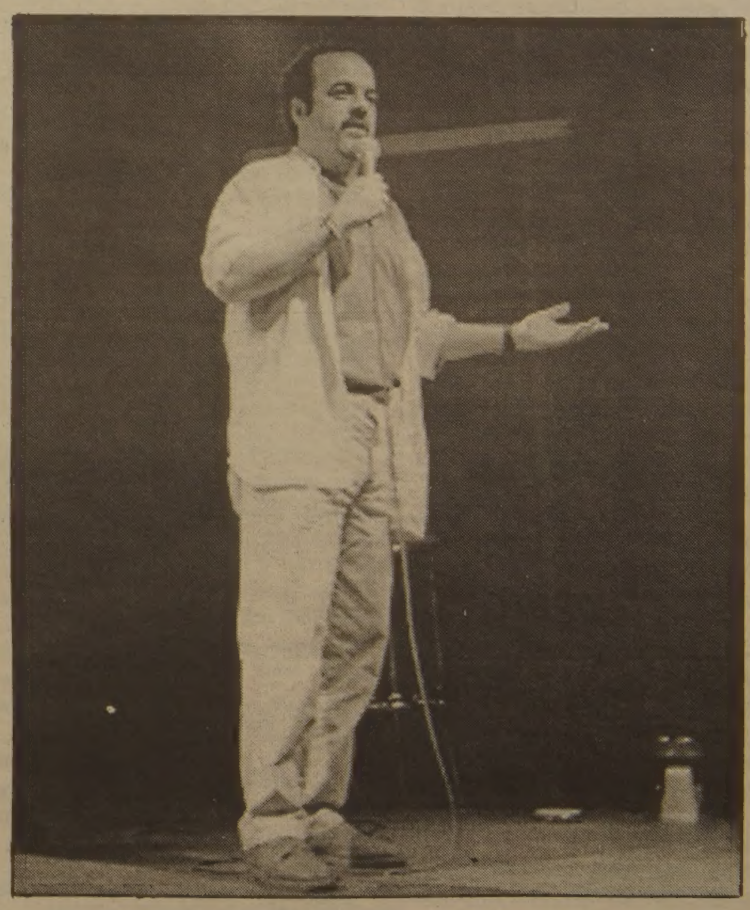
The most forceful attempt to silence the hecklers came from McGrath, who mocked one by saying "I'm a big f——— a———, but how can I let a whole room full of people know?" It made little difference.

After Hours Assistant Manager Glenda Turner, 23, said the pub staff did everything they could to keep the crowd under control. She said people are given a warning and told if the unacceptable behaviour happens a second time they will be asked to leave.

"We've done it in the past. We've had people kicked out because they've been ignorant," she said. "It's a lack of courtesy."

"In the three years I've been here, I'd never seen a crowd that bad before," she said.

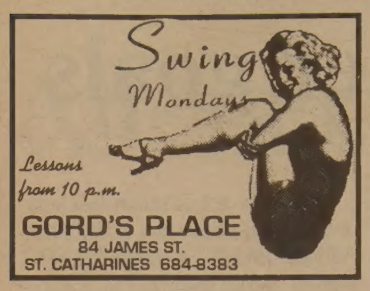
Yuk Yuk's comedy is put on by After Hours every Wednesday night, and the event is all-ages with no cover charge. If you're interested in listening to some of the best comedians in the country and can resist any urges to make a nuisance of yourself, be sure to check it out.



Kevin McGrath does what he can to win over the unreceptive crowd on Oct. 21.

Photo by Sharilyn Johnson

Entertainment



Arrogant Worms return to Port Colborne

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Hide the children and lock your doors — the Arrogant Worms are coming back.

The Toronto-based comedy trio played to a sold-out Roselawn Complex in Port Colborne a year ago, giving an energetic performance those attending will have a hard time forgetting.

The Worms return to the Roselawn Nov. 7 to support their latest release, **Christmas Turkey**.

Singer/bassist Chris Patterson, 26, says the group enjoyed its first time in Port Colborne.

"It was great," he says. "I think that was one of the first nights that they'd had something in after the renovation. It was a big room, but it was quite intimate. We had never played there before and had no idea how things were going to go."

The group, rounded out by Trevor Strong and Mike McCormick, spends most of its time touring, building audiences across Canada in smaller cities and towns.

"We've just been playing weekend shows in places like Guelph, Oakville, Brampton, and the response has been great," Patterson says.

The Nov. 7 show will include songs from the group's four previous releases, some new material, and "enough Christmas stuff to just annoy people," he says.

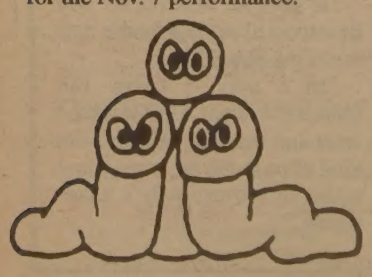
After the Port Colborne gig, the three head west, starting with a Grey Cup party in Winnipeg. This time, however, they will not be making the time-honoured traditional Worms' drive across northern Ontario. Instead, they will fly to Winnipeg and rent a van to continue the tour, which ends in British Columbia.

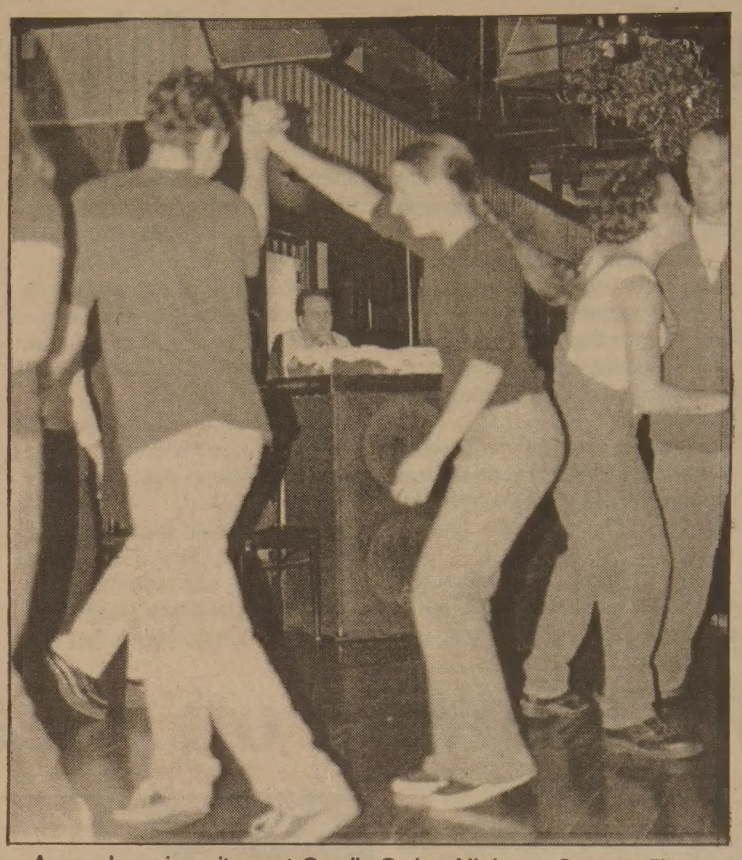
"I don't know how many more national tours our van can take. It's getting a little long in the tooth," he says. "You never know what it's going to do."

The Worms will get a short break from touring in 1999, and Patterson says they hope to do some work on a new CD.

"Right now we have enough songs for an album," he says. "We just don't have a lot of time to record. We might be able to do a little bit of recording in January."

Tickets are still available from the Roselawn Complex box office for the Nov. 7 performance.





A couple swings it up at Gord's Swing Night on Oct. 19. The dance craze enjoyed by older generations is back in style.
Photo by Sean Coffey

Swing's the thing at Gord's Place as 1940s return

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Swing dancing is the new craze on the music scene.

Every Monday night at Gord's Place, 84 James St., in St. Catharines, the theme is swing music.

Wendy Leard, a dance instructor from Niagara Falls, offers free swing instructions from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. for all levels. After 11 p.m., couples are offered advanced semi-private lessons for $10.

"Swing is gathering the same momentum as disco did in the 1970s," she says.

"It (swing dance) is basically part of ballroom dancing," Leard says adding, it is the same thing, but has a "different feel" because of the music.

Leard has been teaching dance for 20 years. She is involved in a four-member singing group called Rich Blend, and has her own dance company called Wendy Leard's School of Dance in Niagara Falls.

"As long as the interest is there we will keep going," she says.

"She is very enthusiastic and energetic," says Rick Farkas, manager of Gord's.

He says they play "music by everyone from Count Basie and Louis Prima to Big Bad Vodoo Daddy and Cherry Poppin' Daddies."

"It's a unique and different night that no one else is doing in the region," he says.

"Everyone who comes in is a novice and the environment is one of learning, so no matter what level you are at, you never feel uncomfortable because everyone is at that level," says Farkas.

Aaron Gorle, 20, from Hamilton's Mohawk College, learned swing at Gord's, on Oct. 19. "I love it," he says. "It's fun. I wanted to do it for a while. It just looks like fun and it's something different for a change."

Derik Watson, Amy Jordan, Jay Pym and Kate Pym went to Gord's Place to learn and say they are planning to go again.

Watson, 24, says he enjoys the music because it's something he and his girlfriend, Jordan, can do together.

"I love the music," says Jordan, 22.

"It looked like fun on the commercial (Gap commercial)," says Jay Pym, 28. "I had a good time."

Kate Pym, 21, says she wanted to learn after seeing the commercial too. "I think it's awesome."

People come dressed in regular clothing or in period clothing and they come as couples and as singles, says Farkas.

The staff are dressed in period clothes and there are cocktail drinks available, says Farkas, adding the night began last February with about 10 people and has grown to more than 100 people.

The revival of swing began with the film *The Mask*, which Cherry Poppin' Daddies took part in. It grew from a small scene at the Derby and Viper Room in Los Angeles, says Farkas, adding movies like *Swingers* have made the scene more appealing.

"There are also lots of collections out now like the **Ultra Bunge** CD and the **Swingtime** CD collections."

Tilting at windmills can be such fun in Stratford's musical

By MIKE EARWICKER
Staff Writer

Who knew madness could be such fun.

Picture this. It's the Spanish Inquisition, you and your manservant are in prison for taxing a church, and your fellow prisoners are going to put you on a trial of their own. How do you defend yourself?

Put on a show, of course.

The Stratford Festival's musical **Man of La Mancha** takes you from a dank prison to sweeping hillsides in one fell swoop.

Miguel de Cervantes (Juan Chioran) and his manservant (Bruce Dow), in an attempt to save Cervante's manuscript from the fire, turn the prison and all its inmates, through song and dance, into the world of Don Quixote and his loyal squire Sancho Panza.

The audience follows Quixote in his quest to attain knighthood through his perils with windmills, drunken barflies, unrequited love and alleged madness. The transition from Cervante's story/defense to the scene that introduces Quixote's adventure is worthy of being in fairy tales as the prison is transformed into a horseback ride through the hills.

Orchestration of the Spanish-style score along with the choreography of the actors makes the scene changes seamless.

Not one inch on or underneath the stage is spared as the conductor, Berthold Carriere, leads the orchestra through nostalgic numbers like *The Impossible Dream* and *It's All the Same*, upbeat numbers such as *I Really Like Him* and *Barber's Song*, to touching or disturbing numbers like *Dulcinea* and *The Abduction*, drawing the audience deeper into the story.

Juan Choiran plays the lead role, Miguel de Cervantes/Don Quixote, showing the innocence and the purity of both characters.

As Cervantes, he convinces the inmates and the audience to join him in his adventures of Don Quixote.

As Quixote he delivers his lines melodically so that breaking into a song doesn't seem strange for the character. Quixote's innocence and purity bring hope to the distraught characters in the tale and the inmates in the prison. He is a knight battling not against evil in the world, but the evil that corrupts people's minds.

The buxom Aldonza, played by Cynthia Dale, the disillusioned and cynical mistress of the inn, is a perfect foil for Quixote's chivalrous world. Dale's vocals are a driving force in the play although she tends to play Aldonza too dramatically while the musical leans toward the farcical side. Her transition from disillusionment to being in awe of Quixote is too sudden to believe.

Bruce Dow's character, the manservant/Sancho Panza, anchors the musical with his lightheartedness and general affection. He shows an air of humanity as a contrast to the seemingly ridiculous character of Quixote, knight errant. His character lives vicariously through Cervantes/Quixote allowing himself to feel true, pure and good for believing in him.

Man of La Mancha is a clash of impending doom and adventure as the audience escapes with the inmates of the prison and does not want to return to a world were the Spanish Inquisition rules.

The Stratford Festival brings a new life to the musical. When the play debuted it had a very rocky start, but with a wonderful cast, orchestra and set, the audience can't help but want to be in the world of Don Quixote.

Straightjackets are not required, but recommended. **B+**

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Sports

Women's basketball team sets higher goals

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

This year will be better.

After struggling to make the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) playoffs in 1997-98, the Niagara Knights women's basketball team has its sights set a little higher.

"We're hoping to finish (at least) third this year," says Andrea Flindall, a first-year student in the General Arts and Sciences program. "This year we have more players, more subs. We have more talent, too."

Flindall is one of four players returning from last year's team, along with her sister, Kristin, Caryn Thompson and OCAA second-team all-star Kristin Davies.

The team will have six rookies as well as a rookie head coach, Georgie Groat.

Groat says she was surprised at the talent the team had when they started practicing.

"From what I'd heard about the college basketball team in past years not having a whole lot of commitment and the girls not being very good athletes, I was coming in thinking that they weren't going to be as good as they are," she said. "But I was quite surprised."

Grout says despite the fact there are only four returning players, inexperience shouldn't be a disadvantage.

"I think some of the young players coming out have definite leadership qualities that are going to surface over the year."

The Knights played a tournament on Oct 16 and 17.

Groat says she had pleasant surprises from some of her players.

"I was surprised, actually, how hard the girls worked. They played with so much discipline. I was really impressed with how they listened."

Groat says two of the players with which she was impressed were Candace Oxford and Christina Griffith.

"She (Oxford) was so much better on defence than what I'd seen in practice," she says. "We have a few players on the team who are real role players. Christina Griffith did a great job. I put her on Redeemer's high point scorer. I said (to) shadow her all over the floor and Christina did."

Groat says she is impressed with the talent she has seen thus far.

"A lot of these girls could walk into a university and play university basketball quite easily."

Groat, as well as her players, is looking for better results in the upcoming season than what they achieved last year.

"I'd like to see them make the playoffs," says Groat. "They made (the) playoffs last year, so I don't think it's out of reach. I think they can do really well. I think they can finish in the top four, maybe top two."

"We had a lot of talent last year but we didn't have any subs," says Andrea Flindall. "It was hard for us. I think (more players) is a good change."

"Last year was disappointing," says Kristin Flindall, 19, a second-year student in the General Arts and Sciences program. "We'd like to do better than last year and be in 100 per cent good shape. We made (the) playoffs last year but (the goal is) to get past the first round of the playoffs."

The Knights regular season begins Nov. 6 at home against Toronto's George Brown College. Tip-off is at 6:30 p.m.

Men's team looking to build on past success

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

There is no pressure.

After a successful 1997-98 season, the Niagara College Knights men's basketball team is focusing on the present, not the past.

"This is a better team, but I don't know how good," says head coach Jeff MacDonald. "I think it's unfair to put undue pressure on young men.

"First of all, we have to bring the team together. If the team comes together, then we take the next step."

MacDonald says his main goal is to foster "good teamwork, and to make sure everyone does well in school and facilitate an enjoyable college experience."

He says there are only three returning players from last year, but that's not a disadvantage.

"We have a lot of very talented players. A lot are untested, meaning they haven't played in the OCAA (Ontario Colleges Athletic Association), but they come from some of the best high schools in the province."

"I think we're really coming together," says Richard Ethier, one of the team's assistant coaches. "We've got new players on the team. It takes a little time to gel, but these guys have great, natural talent. We want to be better in March than we are now."

"We have a tremendous amount of talent and a tremendous amount of potential," says Doug Aitchison, also an assistant coach. "It's just trying to make the talent play like a team."

The players are also expecting more from the team this year.

"I know we have the talent," says Randy Clark, a first-year student in the General Arts and Sciences program. "We have the speed, we have all the skills. We have to harness it all together. I believe we can do a whole lot better (than last year). Of course, I want to be number 1."

"I think we'll do well," says Ben Tominck, 19, a first-year student in the Hotel and Restaurant Management (Co-op) program. "I hope we do well, but I don't feel any pressure."

The three players returning from last year's squad are Steve Boyle, Kyle Handrahan and Marcus O'Connor. This means there will be many rookies on the team. However, none of the coaches say they believe this will be a disadvantage.

"I don't think so because coach MacDonald did a fabulous job recruiting the rookies," says Aitchison. "He really went after players he knew were well-coached in high school."

Aitchison says he believes this year's team will be better than last year's squad that finished ranked No. 12 in the national rankings.

"I always set the highest goal attainable," he says. "It's a logical method to step one step higher every time you go out."

Ethier agrees.

"Our goal is to go to the Canadian championship," he says. "We went out and brought in some players we think can get us there. It'll be hard work and discipline."

MacDonald says a major factor in determining the team's success is if the players can get along.

"They're good young men and they're nice people," he says of his players. "Sometimes that's the important thing, that it's somebody you can work with."

The Knights regular season begins Nov. 19 at home against Ancaster's Redeemer College starting at 8:30 p.m.

The men's basketball team continues to practice in preparation for the OCAA regular season.

Photo by Lee Whitehead

Davies puts team first

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The team comes first.

Kristin Davies, one of four returning players on the Niagara College's Knights women's basketball team, says team results are more important than personal achievement.

"No, I never really have personal goals," says Davies, 20, a second-year student in the Social Service Worker program. "I really only have team goals."

Last season, Davies was selected as an Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) league second-team all-star, and also represented Niagara College in the OCAA all-star game.

"That was awesome. I was really excited and everything, but I don't want to set personal goals because that could take away from the whole team thing. But if I make it, that's great."

Davies says she thinks the team will be more successful than last year.

"First of all, there's more people. We only had six or seven players and it was really difficult last year. We only have 10 (this year) but our bench is going to be stronger, too. We have a lot of players who know what they're doing."

Davies says she thinks the appointment of Georgie Groat as the Knights' new coach was a good decision.

"I think it's a good thing. She's a great coach. She's easy to get along with and she knows what she's talking about.

"Overall, I think this year's going to be a lot better."

Kristin Davies will help the Knights reach new heights this season.

Photo by Lee Whitehead

Knights look to O'Connor

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Another year brings another season.

Marcus O'Connor, a second-year Journalism-Print program student, says he has enjoyed the experience of college basketball.

"Last year was weird," he says. "We started with one coach. Then another coach came in with different expectations. It was weird but I liked the experience."

O'Connor is one of three returning players on the Niagara Knights men's basketball team and says he is looking forward to another season.

"What I'm looking forward to most is going out there and playing with a new team. I know a couple of guys, already, before they came to the school. So I like the atmosphere that's there."

O'Connor says he enjoys working with his teammates as well as his coaches. He says the coaches, as individuals, are great and "together, things are working out all right."

O'Connor says that although the team enjoyed great success last season, there's no reason to believe their success can't be repeated.

"I think it can be duplicated if we, as a team, work hard enough to get there."

He says he believes he will be expected to be a leader as a returning player.

"In a way. I know the (coach's) system. I know what I want and that's to win, so I can kind of push the other guys and make sure everybody's headstrong."

Sports

All-star volleyball player out for season

Injuries are costly

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

Winning can't be the most important thing when you're sidelined with an injury.

Staying healthy for an entire season can be hard, as one Niagara athlete has discovered.

Corey McKeown, 21, of Mississauga, a second-year Law and Security Administration program student and all-star volleyball player, suffered a season-ending injury.

Ten minutes into an exhibition match on Oct. 10, at York University in North York, McKeown was on the court and getting ready to hit a ball.

"I heard a snap and went down thinking that someone had kicked me in the back of the leg."

He says he tried to get up and walk. After two steps he fell to the ground again and crawled to the bench. He wasn't sure what had happened, but says he thought it was his Achilles' tendon when he "couldn't feel it there anymore."

After being looked over by the coach and having an on-site trainer assess the situation, McKeown was taken to hospital.

"I didn't cry because of the pain, but I did get teary-eyed when I was told if it was my Achilles that I'd be out for at least eight months. I was upset that I wouldn't be able to play volleyball for the rest of the year. We had an awesome team."

McKeown had two ways to deal with his injury, a severed Achilles tendon. He faced the decision of having surgery.

"With non-surgery there's a 10 per cent chance it will snap again. With surgery there was only a one per cent chance. If I wanted to play volleyball again I had to go with the best option."

That option was surgery.

It's not only the injury McKeown has to deal with. It's costly to get hurt.

"I'm covered by insurance because I played on the team. I think the school is supposed to cover costs. I know that I have to put a claim in," says McKeown.

Ray Sarkis, Niagara College's assistant director of athletics, says, "The situation with the insurance company right now is that it's a very technical situation. It depends on the injury, how the injury occurred, if it's wear and tear or if it's because of contact."

Sarkis says he's trying to deal with the insurance company to come up with a "halfway point" for Niagara's athletes.

"We want our athletes covered even if it's not a contact situation. A scenario we would like to see covered is if an athlete happens to jump up, whether it's on a lay up or to spike a volleyball, and tears up their knee or ankle and needs rehabilitation, we want to make sure they're covered."

Right now they aren't. The students must pay medical expenses first. Their parents have to cover with medical insurance if available. Sarkis says it takes "forever" for the students to get their money back.

"We want to shorten that span. We want to make sure they are covered and don't have to worry about all these things."

With McKeown's injury it's unknown if he will be covered.

"We certainly have to fight. We're on his side to try and get him covered (for this type of injury)," says Sarkis.

About McKeown's injury itself, Sarkis says, "I hate to say this, I don't want to sound negative. We hope he's going to be able to recuperate and be able to jump again, but a severed Achilles tendon is a very major thing. I think he's got the right attitude. He wants to play again, so it will be interesting to see what happens with it."

Sarkis reports the college had no athletes with major injuries like this last year, other than a broken finger to a female basketball player. Under the insurance policy, the college has all out-of-country costs covered, but pays extra for that coverage.

"We're looking for better coverage for our athletes to make sure that they are covered for any type of rehabilitation that they need."

McKeown will need physical rehabilitation, but he's getting used to crutches and having a cast.

"I'll have the cast for nine weeks. Every two weeks I get a new cast and they raise my foot to stretch the tendon," says McKeown.

He'll be back on the court as soon as he can. He says that since he can't walk, it's hard to help out, but as soon as the cast comes off his coach has asked him to come to the practices and teach some of his skills to the others any way he can.

He plans to work hard to return to the court.

"I'll be back next year to finish off the Police Foundations course. I want it as well as my Law and Security. I want to play but I have to see how rehab goes. Some people say it's never the same and some are fine."

With a strong work ethic, McKeown will be back on the court, but he's got a long battle ahead.

Rugby added to varsity sports by student demand

New team, new coach

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

For the first time, there's a rugby program at Niagara College.

The men's rugby team lost the bronze medal game last weekend at the Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association (OCAA) Rugby Championships at Sarnia's Lambton College on Oct. 24.

Under the coaching of Keith Jones, the 22-man squad lost to Sir Sandford Fleming College from Lindsay 40-0.

In earlier games, Niagara beat Kingston's St. Lawrence College 21-5, lost 42-3 to Sir Sandford Fleming and 29-0 to Barrie's Georgian College.

"I have a couple of assistant coaches from the Niagara Wasps Rugby Football Club giving me a lot of help," said the 45-year-old Jones.

They are Joe Ventresca, John Blackwell and Jerrod French.

Blackwell is also a rugby referee.

The Niagara Wasps Rugby Football Club was founded about 30 years ago and has won more than 50 per cent of its games. The club has a men's and women's team. The men's is divided into junior and senior levels.

The college rugby season lasts six weeks.

The Welsh-born Jones said there is a student demand to play rugby at Niagara College.

According to a part of the president's report to the board of governors, the athletic department reported that the response for tryouts for the first-year rugby team was "outstanding" with 25 students trying out.

Jones credited the growing popularity of women's rugby in the province as another important reason why it's become a varsity sport here.

"Women's rugby is the fastest growing sport in Ontario," he said.

Jones, who played amateur rugby in Wales, has been a rugby coach for five years and has been living in Canada for 20 years.

He played his British rugby with a club called Llanelli Rugby Football Club.

Jones said Niagara's team is getting better with each game.

"We've played four exhibition matches and won one and lost three but we're getting better with every game," he said.

After losses to Hamilton's Mohawk College and Grimsby Rugby Football Club (GRFC), the Niagara College team beat Peterborough's Sir Sandford Fleming (Lindsay campus) College 12-10 and lost to the Brock University team 20-5.

"Despite losing to Brock, Mohawk and GRFC, we held our own against more seasoned competitors, and seeing that we're a new rugby team, I think we did very well," Jones said.

"These were experimental exhibition games and we were trying out players in different positions," he stated.

The Niagara College rugby team doesn't have a captain as yet but Bryon Grant, 18, from Niagara Falls, a first-year Law and Security Administration (LASA) program student, captained the team against the Sir Sandford Fleming squad.

"The players will vote for the team captain and vice-captain in the near future," Jones said, adding the college team is a young, talented unit aged between 19 and 20.

"Our strength is in our forwards, who are big, quick and strong and have shown the ability to burst through their opponents' back lines."

"The team has benefited by having two or three experienced leaders in it and they make all the difference because they inspire the rest of the boys to give their best on the field," Jones said, explaining the team's weakness is the inexperience of the backs.

"We have an abundance of wingers but no experienced centre and outside halves to deal with the opposition's attacks through the middle and down the flanks," he said. "However, there's a lot of team unity, which always helps."

The North American football equivalent to rugby's outside half is an outside wide receiver.

The Niagara College rugby squad participated in a two-day rugby competition Oct. 17, at Sir Sandford Fleming College open to men's and women's college teams.

Jones said Canada's standard of rugby is improving every year because more and more high school students are playing the sport.

As a result, he said, many high school graduates who enter college know how to play the game well and this increases the national standard.

Jones said Ontario and British Columbia are the two major rugby provinces in Canada.

He said Canada is ranked among the top 15 rugby countries in the world.

Jones said in his opinion, New Zealand's All Blacks team will win the Rugby World Cup in Britain and France next year. His assistant coaches had differing views with Ventresca favouring either Australia or South Africa and Blackwell liking France.

Coach surprised at easy win for championship

Niagara's touch football team dominates at championship tournament in Hamilton

Continued from Page 1

"I thought it was separated," he said. "I was diving for a ball and I landed awkwardly, with all my weight on my shoulder."

With Awil out of the tournament, the rest of the team picked up the intensity.

On Saturday, after receiving a bye in the quarter-finals, the Knights again played St. Lawrence in the semi-final.

With the Knights leading 39-0 in the second quarter, the game was called.

"Halfway through the second quarter, they downed it," said Conlon. "They had to play another game (the bronze medal game) and this one was already out of hand."

The Knights went on to the final and disposed of Lambton.

"I was a little surprised by how easily we won," said Conlon. "Our statistics were phenomenal. We had 16 interceptions in four games."

Conlon said he is happy his veterans finally got a taste of a championship.

"Chris Dobson, Andrew Rivers and Donny Provan all played three years. They joined a dynasty. Then we lost two years in a row. They really wanted to win, so it was nice for them to finally win."

Conlon said this championship will be one his team will remember forever.

"With the exception of the '96-'97 basketball team I coached, this is probably the best group of guys I've ever coached.

"I had so much fun. It's a shame it's a short season and it's a shame it's over. What a great bunch of guys."

Sports

Niagara varsity teams 'tune up'

They won the consolation at Georgian College

By SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

The past couple of weeks have been a "tune up" for Niagara's College's varsity teams.

The men's volleyball team won two and lost two games playing against the top teams in the country. The team also lost one of their players, Corey McKeown, who severed his Achilles' tendon and had to have surgery on Oct. 16.

They also played against Guelph University and lost.

Ray Sarkis, assistant director of varsity athletics, says the players "didn't feel they played very well."

The men's basketball team was defeated 93-58 this weekend by Oakville's Sheridan College, the Ontario Colleges Athletics Association (OCAA) champions.

Sarkis says the coaches "weren't concerned about winning and didn't want the team to show Sheridan too much of what they had."

The Knights will play Sheridan again later in the season.

The women's volleyball team finished first overall playing in Hamilton against Mohawk College, Notre Dame College and Sheridan College.

The women's basketball team, who are on "probation because of poor participation," proved to be "very good."

They won the consolation at Georgian College.

Sarkis says the coach was "very pleased with the team effort."

Niagara's touch football team was the big story. The team won the gold medal at the OCAA at Hamilton's Mohawk College.

Sarkis says Niagara "dominated every team they played."

Niagara only had six points scored against them in four games. The competition was "lopsided" in a 61-0 win.

Sarkis says the defence contained the offence and "didn't want to rub in it their faces," which "shows a lot of class."

Knights to play Sheridan later in season

Kevin Moniz, Shane McKenzie and Bradley Boullough received tournament Player of the Game honors, while McKenzie and Chris Dobson were named OCAA touch football all-stars.

The rugby team travelled to Sarnia's Lambton College on Oct. 24 and 25.

Badminton has begun at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Intramurals are starting to pick up and the next registration is for co-ed indoor soccer.

Sarkis says the Athletic Department is looking for a mascot who is "reliable and will stick it out for the whole year."

The Athletic Department is also looking for an instructor for step classes to start immediately to instruct on Tuesdays from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. for $10 an hour.

Sarkis says he is "pleased with the results" and he "looking forward to all of the teams' regular season."

Commentators have biased opinions when competitors aren't American

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

Every once in a while I'll turn on the television. Rarely will I watch sports, but the other day was different. I watched the VISA World gymnastic competition.

I was a gymnast for 13 years. My favourite pastime used to have everything to do with gymnastics, including watching televised competitions.

Not any more.

As I watched the competition all I heard was biased, insulting comments by the sports commentators. I wanted to turn the volume off but I needed to hear the competitors' names and countries.

I wanted to turn the TV volume off

The competition was in the United States and it was an American broadcast. If you watched, they wouldn't have had to tell you it was American since the main focus was on the losing American team, not the first-place winners of the other countries.

The female champion was from Ukraine. I think this should have been the main focus since Ukraine isn't a likely first-place winner at a World gymnastics competition.

During the competition, every move made by the non-American competitors was criticized although the level of difficulty was amazing and the execution of the move perfect.

I think American sports commentators don't know what they're doing or what they're talking about. They support the American team. Why don't they just sit in the audience?

I've had enough of their biased opinions.

Arizona's to renovate

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

There are plans for more improvements at Arizona's Taps and Grill on Merrittville Highway in Thorold.

Michael DeDivitiis, one of the owners of Arizona's, at 2740 Merrittville Highway, says they want to get rock climbing at Arizona's and are thinking about building a kitchen outside.

The club has a lot of plans for next year, such as fireworks.

Renovations to the club cost about $200,000, but "we have made the money back," he says, adding the club is a "success."

Arizona's is one of the biggest Labatt beer sellers and the ninth biggest seller of Mexican beer in Ontario, DeDivitiis says.

"Everybody was negative and against us (opening Arizona's). We were always constantly paying bills. We spent a lot of money."

The construction of Arizona's took about nine months because the owners decided to make it bigger.

"We just decided to spend more money," says DeDivitiis, explaining they built a patio to fit about 1,200 people, rather than just for 450 people as originally planned, and expanded from about four acres of land to 10 acres.

DeDivitiis says they had "a lot" of expenses.

Parking improvements cost them about $80,000.

The four owners are Michael, Hector, Serge and Paulie DeDivitiis, the sons of the owner of Front 54, 54 Front St., in Thorold.

"We wanted to make it just as big as Front," says DeDivitiis.

They chose the land off Merrittville Highway because it was at the "right price" and the "right size," he says, adding it is a "good location" being close to Brock University in St. Catharines and Welland's Niagara College, close to the Highway 406 cut off, and no neighbours to worry about the noise level.

The "big ranch concept" is what they were aiming for, says DeVivitiis, explaining the owners wanted a "relaxed, summer bar" with a big patio and they wanted to keep the inside "small and cozy."

DeDivitiis says they were thinking about opening a new bar for about two years before opening Arizona's.

They wanted to target "everybody" by playing a variety of music and having a restaurant, he says, adding the restaurant in Arizona's offers a "variety of food" and daily specials for lunches and suppers.

Festival of Lights begins Nov. 21 as Disney partnership extended

By LARISSA KONDUSKY
Staff Writer

NIAGARA FALLS — Disney will be brightly shining in Niagara Falls until the year 2001.

Jim Rayburn, managing director for Walt Disney Canada, said Disney has decided to extend its agreement with the Winter Festival of Lights until the year 2001 "and perhaps beyond."

Also included in this year's 16th annual festival will be a night parade and a new host for the New Year's Eve party.

"We're very excited about all of our adventures this year," says Gary Hendershot, chairman of the Winter Festival of Lights.

"As far as we're concerned, the Winter Festival of Lights is a world-class event and Disney Canada has always been proud to be part of it," says Rayburn.

"Certainly over the past six years the festival has gone from, I think, a great festival to a national and even an international event with the coming on board of, certainly, the Disney people," says Wayne Thompson, mayor of Niagara Falls.

A Bug's Life, a Disney movie to be released Nov. 25, will be one of the themes used for the light display. The other will be Disney's Doug and his dog, Porkchop.

"Doug is fast becoming one of the most popular Saturday morning children's shows on Canadian television," says Rayburn.

A night parade, which will include 10 floats, will begin this year on Nov. 27 at 8 p.m. and will travel from the Rainbow Bridge along the parkway to Murray Hill.

Santa Claus will be the parade marshal. He will be there to sign autographs and take wishes after the parade, says Hendershot.

ONTV will be participating in this year's festival by broadcasting and hosting the New Year's Eve celebrations.

The new hosts for the show will be Matt Hayes and Jennifer Mossop, personalities from ONTV.

"We're really thrilled you made us part of this event and we won't disappoint you. We're gonna have a great time," says Hayes.

This year's festivities begin on Nov. 21 with Mickey's Rockin' Christmas. The show begins at 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Opening ceremonies will begin at 5:15 p.m. and will be followed by fireworks.

This year's live entertainment includes Family night, Nov. 28, with Markus; Country night, Dec. 5, with Thomas Wade and Wayward, and Beverly Mahood; Candles in the Park, Dec. 19, featuring Rich Blend; and New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, with Blue Rodeo, The Philosopher Kings, Barrage and Kideo.

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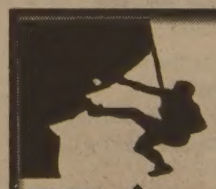
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News Across Niagara

More money in bursary fund

$1 million in bursary fund

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

The kitty in the bursary pot is $1-million richer this year.

Slightly more than $500,000 was contributed by Niagara regional corporations, organizations and individuals to the Double Your Dollars bursary fund-raising program concluded in the spring.

The campaign was supported by the provincial government's Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund matching grant initiative that matched the moneys raised by Niagara College to create the $1 million in new bursary assets.

"Many of our students find themselves in very difficult financial circumstances, and this additional source of support can make a real difference to a student's academic success," says Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College.

The bursaries are given to students who have shown financial need, and who have established some kind of academic satisfaction, says Chris Blake, executive director of the Niagara College Foundation, the college's fund-raising arm.

Major contributors to the campaign included The Maid of the Mist Corporation in Niagara Falls, whose bursary will benefit students in the college's hospitality and tourism programs, and the Metis Nation of Ontario, whose bursary will be directed to Metis students.

Several new awards were created in memory of individuals with strong connections to the college, including the late Gordon Goulty, a professor in the Construction Engineering Technology-Architecture program, and the late Eugene Maltais, a political science professor.

Awards were contributed and named for the Chambers of Commerce of St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake, as well as the Rotary Club (Sunrise) of Niagara Falls, the latter in memory of former club president Al Goar.

The college also welcomed additional contributions for several existing awards, including the Stella Howlett Award for a tourism/hospitality student, and the Edna Burroughs Award (from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society) for a student in the college's Horticultural Technician (Co-op) program.

The foundation's own special events fund-raising events made possible special bursaries, equal to the cost of a typical tuition package (about $2,000), available to students living in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Welland.

Other contributions came from individuals within the community to recognize families and individuals who made significant contributions within the community.

The Student Administrative Council, college alumni, staff, retirees and board members also contributed to the fund.

"I am grateful for the generous community support, and I know that many future students at the college will be very grateful as well," says Patterson.

Bursary information is at the financial aid offices at the Glendale and Welland campuses.

Local business community making contribution to college

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — Chris Blake says he would like to award bursaries to everyone who needs one.

"There are never enough bursaries to satisfy the needs."

Blake, executive director of the Niagara College Foundation, the college's fund-raising arm, says until the day arrives when there are enough bursaries to meet eveyone's needs, the college "has to have some way of deciding who's going to get it."

Bursaries are based on financial need and, like grants, do not have to be repaid. Some bursaries have an academic qualification attached to them and it is the college's financial aid department's job to verify the student's eligibility for the bursary, says Blake.

His job, says Blake, is to raise and manage the money for the bursaries.

"We did nicely," says Blake of the Double Your Dollars campaign that was completed in the spring. "It was a great opportunity to raise money and that's really, really needed."

Blake, who co-ordinates fund-raising for the Niagara: The Next Century capital campaign as well as fund-raising drives for the bursaries, awards and scholarships, says the local business community is "always really well disposed to making a contribution."

Contributions area businesses make aren't always cash contributions, he says. They may make contributions of equipment, of their personal time serving on an advisory committee, or their staff helping out in some way, says Blake.

"You have to try and find, from my point of view, what it is they are able to give and want to give and find a way to make that happen. It's not just about having cash on the table. It's about building a relationship."

At the same time, the foundation has on-going fund-raising acitivities and any moneys raised from special events will go into the bursary pool so that all bursaries will benefit.

Individual donors will also make contributions. Sometimes, donations will be made to a specific program.

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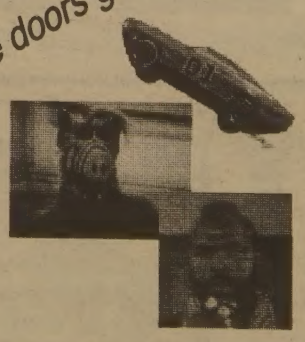
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Firewalking 'a wonderful magical experience'

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Ignite the passion. Learn to firewalk.

That's what the flyer for Continuing Education's new firewalking course states.

The course is being taught by Mark Brickell, 35, of St. Catharines, one of the few certified firewalk instructors in North America.

Brickell said firewalking is a "wonderful, magical experience, and all sorts of neat things can happen."

He has been firewalking and instructing for two years, in which time he's taught between 220 and 250 people to firewalk.

This is the first time Brickell will teach through Niagara College.

The class took place Oct. 7 at the Boy Scout's Camp in St. Catharines.

Adam Kieswetter, 23, of St. Catharines, a student at Brock University in St Catharines, and Brian Freel of Fenwick, a teacher at St. Augustine in Welland, were students in Brickell's class.

Before walking on fire, Kieswetter, a graduate of the college's Journalism-Print program, said his birthday is this month and the class is a birthday present he's giving himself.

After the walk, Kieswetter said he had enjoyed the experience.

Before Freel walked on the fire, he said he decided to do it to gain a "stronger belief in the power of the mind."

Afterwards, Freel said the firewalk made him feel "calm and relaxed," adding he had a "stronger feeling of confidence," and was "elated."

During his class, Brickell's students actually walk over the hot coals barefoot, but not before he teaches them how to firewalk and how to do it safely.

In preparation for the firewalk, the group of about 20 students shared their reasons for coming.

Brickell concentrated on students supporting students throughout the night.

The students paired up and learned how to break a board in two with their hands as the other students cheered them on.

By the end of the night, all students had successfully walked on the fire.

Brickell said it's "100 per cent possible to walk on fire safely," adding people "must maintain a healthy respect for the fire."

Brickell said the "worst sensation" people should feel when firewalking is the smack they'd feel if they held their arms as far apart as possible and then clapped them together. He said in a successful firewalk a person wouldn't feel anything.

"I've walked on the fire more than 200 times, but every single time I do it, I think, 'Is this possible?'" said Brickell, adding he hopes he always feels that way about the experience.

A beginner firewalk, the one taught in Brickell's class, is between 10 and 12 feet. Brickell has walked across 52 feet of hot coals. The coals reach temperatures of between 800 and 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit, which is hot enough to melt steel.

He said firewalks are held for many reasons, some of which are as a motivational tool, for enlightenment, for wonder and amazement, for healing, as a coming of age ritual or for the feeling of doing the impossible.

Brickell said he views firewalking as a "symbolic metaphor for decision making, for going forward."

He said he started because in the 1970s he watched tribes doing it on National Geographic shows. In the '80s he heard of it being used as a motivational tool and thought "if hundreds of thousands of people walk on fire, I can."

Brickell was taught by Peggy Dylan in California over an "intensive" 10-day training period.

"She's taught the serious firewalkers in North America," said Brickell, adding, "She learned it from a tribal group and brought it to North America."

Dylan is the only person on this continent who certifies people to lead firewalks, said Brickell.

In addition to teaching firewalks, Brickell owns a consulting company, but he said firewalking is a "major part" of his career.

He said he's received e-mail from people saying it changed their lives. "That's the power of the firewalk."

Brickell is unsure if he'll be teaching more classes through the college, but he said he hopes to.

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News Across Niagara

College presidents unite

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

Twenty-five high-powered thinkers, including Niagara College's President Dan Patterson, met recently to brainstorm priorities and issues facing the community college system in Ontario.

The Council of Presidents, which includes all 25 provincial community colleges, meets eight to 10 times a year to talk about "college-wide issues" that impact on the college system, says Patterson.

Once a year they meet on a two-day retreat. This year, held at Loyalist College in Belleville, Ont., Oct. 4 to Oct. 6, it centred on a number of issues from establishing new funding formulas to key performance indicators (KPI's).

A number of presidents were asked to make short presentations on various topics. Patterson spoke about reducing red tape and the amount of paperwork and reports for the government.

The three C's resulted: cut, consolidate and continue.

The council suggested cutting unessential reports. They'd like to consolidate reports in a more organized fashion and "things that we knew we had to continue to report on that was part of the accountability framework," says Patterson.

The council agreed the College of Applied Arts and Technology steering committee was given the responsibility of furthering the discussion with recommendations to the provincial Ministry of Education in Training.

Patterson said two topics of concern to him were ensuring the government implementation of KPI's was well organized and implementing the Better Skills, More Jobs presentation by the Ministry of Education in Training.

Performance-based funding has become "a fact of life" for the Ontario college system with the introduction of KPI's by the provincial government. Ontario colleges will be required to report regularly on job placement rates, student satisfaction and employer satisfaction surveys.

Over time, 10 per cent of the college's budget will be funded by the government based on KPI results.

Niagara College will be required to meet the base marks established under KPI to ensure full funding.

The challenge for the colleges will be "to ensure that we build and continue improvement processes to improve our track record in job placement, student satisfaction and employer satisfaction."

The provincial government has issued a document, Better Skills, More Jobs, which articulates an integrated training and education system for Ontario.

Currently the federal and provincial governments deliver a range of programs for the unemployed and the current work force that often duplicate services and cause confusion in the marketplace. This document recommends an "improved way of managing the training landscape in Ontario."

"It calls for an integrated delivery system which, if implemented, would improve the quality of training in education provided to unemployed people and work places," says Patterson.

The college system is interested in the proposed provincial changes. It hopes to deliver many of the training programs under the new federal and provincial arrangement.

The province is negotiating these changes with the federal government. A decision hasn't been made on the proposal.

"We want to better improve the way we deliver training and we want to be part of the new delivery system," says Patterson.

Just hanging around

Gavin Van Caulart, 21, of Fonthill, a first-year student in the Landscape Technician (Co-op) program, assists Trevor Vanmarrum, 19, of Caledonia, a second-year student in the Horticultural Technician (Co-op) program, climb to the ceiling of the barn at the new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake using a seat harness, ropes and pulleys. Students are taught this technique for taking branches off damaged trees. This was part of a demonstration to the public during the new campus open house on Saturday, Oct. 24.

Photo by Rosemary Bartlett

Alumni record updated

Isabell McGarry, administration assistant for the Niagara College Foundation, the college's fund-raising arm, updates the alumni record of Karla Gilmore of St. Catharines, shown with husband, Jim, and daughter, Julia, 12. Gilmore graduated from the college's Business program in 1974. About 150 alumni visisted the alumni welcoming room at Saturday's open house at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Photo by Rosemary Bartlett

Pass the roll, tell your story

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

It was all fun and food for the students of the Social Service Worker program.

Second-year students hosted their 15th annual meet and greet for the first-year students in the Niagara College program on Oct. 21.

When everyone arrived and sat down, second-year students passed out rolls of toilet paper telling everyone to take as much as they would need on a camping trip.

For every piece students took they had to say something about themselves.

Catherine Demers, 19, a first-year student, says she didn't like this game at first. "I'm not a very public person. I didn't want to do it because I'm shy."

She says after playing the game she was more comfortable. It "breaks the ice."

Afterwards students had lunch together. First-year students could ask questions and get to know the second-year students.

Nicole Payne, 19, a second-year student, says the point of the meet and greet is to make first-year students feel comfortable around the second-year students.

Strike cancelled

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

There will not be a strike by Ontario's post-secondary college professors, as they have reached a tentative agreement. Classes will be held as usual.

There was a rumour of a strike at the colleges as faculty have worked without a contract for two years.

Negotiations were ongoing with the Council of Regents, which represents the administrative arm of the college system.

Sherri Rosen, president of Ontario Public Service Employees Union Local 242 at Niagara, said the Council wanted a lot of concessions, including removing Article 11, which governs the faculty workload.

She said this would allow colleges to reclassify the professors as instructors and decrease wages by 30 per cent. The reclassified instructors would have had to work seven additional in-class hours than a usual workload week.

Pension plans would also have been affected, she said, because the faculty pension plan's payouts are dependent on the last five years' wage levels.

"The faculty has not had a wage increase since 1993," said Rosen.

She teaches sociology and social sciences in the General Arts and Science program. Rosen has served as the local union president for six years and has been on the local executive at the college for 16 years.

If the colleges' faculty had voted to strike, the work stoppage would have been Sept. 28.

"We were going to strike because we couldn't get a reasonable offer," said Rosen.

Aug. 28, 1998, was a turning point when the proposed settlement was reached.

On Sept. 24 a new contract vote to accept or reject was held by all provincial colleges.

The faculties' demands were job security, no concession on workload formulae and wage increases.

The faculty didn't receive guaranteed job security but did get a wage increase.

"There are thousands of contracts that are signed every year," said Rosen, "but the faculty union is always looked negatively upon."